

SAINT JOHN'S

EDMONTON REPORT

Vol. 1, No. 43, Sept. 23, 1974

35 CENTS

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In Edmonton's mud-flying election year
an unofficial 4-party coalition backs his cause

LETTERS

'Cruel' tactics

Editor:

Very recently a dear friend of ours passed away, and the "methods" of a local undertaking establishment are almost unbelievable. Perhaps an independent survey of all local firms engaged in "helping" bereaved families might be very informative, and we would hope that they might refrain from such "cruel" tactics in the future.

I mentioned to the bereaved family my desire to expose what I consider very non-Christian business tactics on the part of this particular funeral director's establishment and they gave me their permission to give you any details of their experience you might find helpful. I understand from others that some of the complaints of this family are not restricted to any one particular funeral director's place of business.

If you feel that such a project would be worthy of your attention you would do a great service to all.

Mrs. L.J. Pearce
Edmonton

For busy people

Editor:

On many occasions, the *Report* has "almost" inspired me to write to commend you for the excellent job the magazine is doing. For busy people, the Edmonton scene is to be learned quickly and easily by reading here.

But particularly the issue [ER, Sept. 9] in which the Edmonton public school board debate regarding the "sanctity of the school" was reported — my sincere thanks. What I was trying to say was reported exactly as I would have wished it.

At times my concern has been whether anyone else understood me . . . or whether this whole issue is really a non-issue. The education feature caught and reported the matter clearly and interestingly.

R. Herb Jamieson, Trustee
Edmonton Public School Board

Better than hearings

Editor:

Hurrah! Edmonton City Council took an historic and creative step — Ald. Una Evans' startling amendment to delete reference to the Jasper Freeway and MacKinnon Ravine Roadway from Edmonton's transportation plan (bylaw 4368) was approved, first and second readings, by our courageous city council [ER Sept. 9]. Thus Una Evans, Ed Leger, Buck Olsen, Bill McLean, Dave Ward, Ron Hayter and Ivor Dent cul-

minated an eight-year campaign to preserve Edmonton's river valley for people.

Thankfully, the matter was not just left there. While affirming that west-end traffic problems would not be solved by a river valley freeway, the existence of the problems was recognized. Careful suggestions were given by council members to the transportation planning branch for developing adequate traffic movement patterns for Edmonton's west end: reversible traffic lanes, no left turns, restricted street parking, one-way streeting, free parking at bus pickup points, improved intersections.

These ideas should be instituted now to test their effectiveness in improving traffic flow — such practical testing would be better than public hearings for testing our transportation plan.

Thank you, Edmonton City Council!

Paul McGaffey for S.T.O.P.
(Save Tomorrow/Oppose Pollution)
Edmonton

No comparison

Editor:

I am enclosing my cheque for another six-month subscription, but at the same time must protest the extraordinarily high cost of your publication. I have subscribed for over 30 years to the top literary magazine in North America [*The New Yorker*] and it costs me only \$17 a year, including mailing costs from New York. It is many times thicker; it has topical coverage of world events, as well as great book reviews, movie critiques, etc., etc. There is no comparison between the quality of the writing of this magazine and that of *Edmonton Report*. There are no spelling errors in it (like "momento" for "menento") and no typographical errors (you do need a proofreader!).

However, I shall try your magazine for another six months and will hope for improvement.

Mrs. Marjory R. Murphy
Edmonton

Thanks for service

Editor:

What a marvelous magazine! We, as a family, read *Edmonton Report* with great interest because of its total local items.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of our city's happenings. You are providing a service the *Journal* has never accomplished.

Mr. and Mrs. F.G. Venner
Edmonton

SAINT JOHN'S EDMONTON REPORT

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MINORITIES

Radio show champions Canada's 'Third Force'

The host (really the star) and the producer of *Identities*, CBC Radio's weekly series about Canada's cultural minorities, resent being put in an ethnic corner and not being taken seriously by their colleagues and practically being told "it's okay to do your thing, but let it end there."

"Exciting things are beginning to happen as people are starting to love the show, especially when Lubomyr Mikitiuk, the host, reads stories and acts," said producer Richard Osicki. The two radio personalities were in Edmonton last week to meet and talk



HOST MIKITUK
Half of a perfect team.

with producers at CBX Radio and to do a show with Ukrainian disc jockey Dan Chomlak. This co-hosting was almost a labor of love, since Mr. Mikitiuk was born in the Ukraine but has no recollection of his homeland, which he left when only three months old.

Identities focuses on cultural activities and affairs of Canada's "third force" — the Ukrainians, Poles, Lebanese, Germans, Italians, Spanish, Puerto Ricans and others. "From my point of view, one of our most exciting shows involved Lubomyr's talents as an actor in the story about a black poet who committed suicide by burning himself because, God knows why. Maybe because of himself and his frustrations," said Mr. Osicki. "We are terribly excited about the variety show (songs, dances and interviews on stage) we did in Hafford, Sask., that was a smashing success. We will launch our season with

it on Sept. 30."

The show had its beginnings from 1971 recommendations of the Royal Commission of Laundrendeau-Dunton which studied the needs of the "third force" that makes up one-third of Canada's population. One of the recommendations called for the government and radio to take notice of these people, Mr. Osicki pointed out. Long interested in multi-culturalism, he disrupted his life in Montreal to go to Toronto to produce the show in January. Mr. Mikitiuk, then an unemployed actor, heard about the show from a friend's girlfriend and said, "You're crazy!" when she suggested he try out. "Why not?" she came back. "I went out and liked it," he continued. "It was as simple as that."

"They're dying for you in Thunder Bay," Mr. Osicki said, interrupting the interview when the telephone rang in their room at the Chateau Lacombe. The two radio VIPs were more than a little weary at 10 in the morning as they had been "launched" the night before by Lawrence Langeley, the continuing producer, and Jackie Rollans, executive producer at CBX Radio. The show, a folk festival, will be produced the weekend of Sept. 21. "Trudeau will be there, but they want you more than him."

"If it means that much to you, I'll go," Mr. Mikitiuk retorted.

"We're a perfect team," said Mr. Osicki. "The show hasn't gone stale, because we are constantly trying to find and explore ourselves. We want to know more about ourselves." The show's host-star said he was still developing his style to suit the wide panorama of the series. "Lubomyr's style combines a sort of nostalgia ("The joke around the office is his often-repeated 'When I was a little boy,'" the producer said in an aside), something that could be labeled North American sentimentalism and sadness. He actually cries on the show when something sad occurs or is mentioned."

Along about then, the two radio VIPs looked out the window and exclaimed, "It's snowing!" "It's great," said the producer. "I like the first snow, but in January it's a gray, miserable thing... It makes me feel like a boy," said the host-star.

The two men were pleased with the acceptance of the show but would like to see Eskimos, Indians, French-Canadians and people of British lineage included in the series. "This would bring together all of the elements that are the reality of Canada," they said. "This is what Canada is all about. Now we are sort of sneaking around corners and looking for

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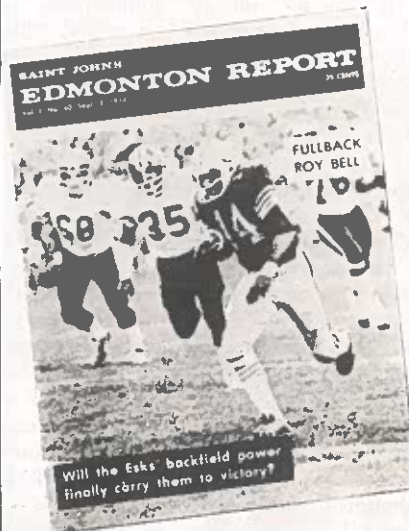
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an angle that is not the total angle of the whole story of Canada." With a magazine format, *Identities*, a 90-minute show, is heard Mondays at 8:30 p.m.

Another aspect that keeps the show alive is the flavor of free-lancers from all over Canada. First, ideas are submitted to local radio stations whose producers study them. If approved, ideas are sent to Toronto. With final approval, free-lancers go ahead, taping and editing their interviews. Mr. Osicki and Mr. Mikitiuk like doing interviews for magazines and newspapers, not for the usual reason of getting publicity for their show. "The interesting thing about interviews is that they give you a chance to think about the whole perspective of the show," said Mr. Mikitiuk. For the two men, the show is practically their whole lives. "We spend hour on hour talking about it, even in bars," said the producer. "You'd think we would get upset talking so much to each other, wouldn't you?"

COURTS

'Chief Crown prosecutor' familiar title to official

On Sept. 1, D.C. Abbott was named chief Crown prosecutor of Edmonton for the second time. The first time was April 1, 1973. No, it wasn't an April Fool gag that first time — he took office the following month and hasn't moved since, but in order to widen his jurisdiction, he had to be named again...this time as chief Crown prosecutor for the District of Edmonton.

"It is all buried somewhere in history," he explained last week. "The province is divided into districts, each with a major city. The other districts have their Crown prosecutors handling all the criminal cases in the city as well as the ones in the country. The prosecutors can follow their cases right up to the Supreme Court. But in Edmonton District, the provincial work in the country has been handled by prosecutors from the attorney general's department, and the higher courts are handled by an outside firm, Shortreed, Shocter & Co. There was pressure to make Edmonton the same as the rest of the districts, if only to make it uniform. The attorney general's department decided that as of Jan. 1, 1975, Edmonton would be responsible for all criminal prosecutions in the higher courts as well as the lower ones, and all cases in the judicial district of Edmonton." In order to take over all this new work, the attorney general's department had to make Mr. Abbott chief Crown prosecutor...despite the fact he already had that title.

Having explained what was supposed to happen next Jan. 1, Mr. Abbott went

on to explain that things wouldn't occur quite that quickly. His office will take over all criminal prosecutions in the city at first, letting the attorney general's department handle the country work and eliminating the outside firm completely. Eventually, the Edmonton office is supposed to take over all the prosecution work in the district. "But rather than take it over in one step, we will do it in installments."

The expansion of Mr. Abbott's department will necessitate the hiring of new staff to do the work that used to be covered by Shortreed, Shocter & Co. Mr. Abbott thinks that by increasing the present staff by seven, making a total of 17 lawyers, he will have enough. "It will take four to handle the extra work, but we also are constructing three more courtrooms and will need another three to cover those." He



PROSECUTOR ABBOTT
Appointed again.

doesn't, however, know how many more will have to be added after that in order to take on the cases now being handled by the attorney general's department. "It won't be that difficult to figure out when the time comes, though. We simply take the maximum number of courtrooms sitting on one day in the district and that is the number of people we need."

He sees the expansion as necessary for other reasons than making the prosecution system uniform throughout the province. "We take a lawyer, just like any other lawyer, and we say to him that he is only allowed to practice in the lower courts. If the case is appealed, an outside firm takes over. This affects the attitude of our prosecution lawyers. It affects their colleagues' attitudes toward them. It affects their futures. And it affects the type of people who come. We have very

good lawyers, but we aren't allowing them to develop their full potentials by imposing fairly severe limitations on the type of work they are allowed to do. It's important to develop lawyers with a career in prosecution, and we can't do this by limiting their horizons."

Mr. Abbott has been involved in other systems of prosecution. Born in Winnipeg 37 years ago, he was brought up there and went to the University of Manitoba for his arts degree. He took his law degree at the Manitoba Law School, graduating in 1962, and stayed in private practice until 1966 in Winnipeg. That year he accepted a post as a prosecutor in Calgary, staying until 1973 when he came to Edmonton to be named chief Crown prosecutor for the first time.

PUBLICATIONS

Chamber guide narrows city's information gap

Even before Edmonton was incorporated as a city, it had a Chamber of Commerce acting as a voice for the businessmen of the urban area, proclaiming the path which the future municipality ought to take. Chamber officials sometimes will go far in their proud estimations of the city which they have helped shape, but last week offered a sharp criticism of Edmontonians. "The least informed Albertans on Edmonton are Edmontonians," said one Chamber representative. Of course, the champions of free enterprise were not about to let a market like that remain untapped and announced the obvious solution along with the recognition of the problem last week. That solution is Volume I of *Edmonton: Chamber of Commerce Tourist and Industry Guide*.

The magazine-format Baedeker stretches for 104 pages, and is wrapped with a color aerial view of the city. It is sort of the "straight man's guide" to Edmonton following on the heels of Tree Frog Press's more comprehensive and more editorialized *Edmonton Access Catalogue* [ER, Sept. 9]. Another difference between Tree Frog's version of the city and the Chamber's is found in the content of the *Tourist Guide*, over half of which is advertising from Chamber members. It is because of this prolific advertising, most of which is relevant in an introduction to the city and is actually a vital part of the production, that the price of the magazine is so low — \$1.

One of the prime movers behind the fruition of this project, which has been several years in the planning stages, is Stan Buchanan, Simpsons-Sears store manager at the Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre. He chaired the committee which finally found an Edmonton-based printer to publish the magazine, Lyone

Publications Ltd., which along with the Allarco company, Metropolitan Printing, did the job. As Mr. Buchanan stated, "the prime purpose of the magazine is to communicate the message of Edmonton, for those visiting, already living, or considering coming to the city." He said he hoped that Robert Dowling, the minister responsible for tourism, could be encouraged to use the magazine in his department's promotion of this area of the province.

For the Chamber's own promotion of its new publications, copies (along with \$1 invoices) have been mailed out to each Chamber member. In about a week Royal Canadian Sea, Army and Air Cadets will be calling door-to-door in Edmonton offering the city's residents an opportunity to read up on their city for a dollar.

The Chamber plans to make it a yearly publication, with 50,000 copies on this debut, and future volumes expected to continue the self-education of Edmontonians on such matters close to their collective hearts as harness racing, since the Chamber claims per-capita betting is higher here than any city in Canada. And the cover will be updated each year, giving new perspectives on Edmonton's physical growth. In fact, a Chamber spokesman even said there might be a winter scene on Volume II, a picture more representative of how Edmonton appears most of the year.

SAMARITANS

Block Parents in action against child molesters

Tackling a problem before it becomes major is what the Edmonton Police Department, Community Leagues and Home and School intend to do about child molestation through the Block Parents Program, according to Const. Ron Austin, chairman and officer in the police community relations division. "Edmonton is in an envious position compared to some other cities in which it isn't safe to send a child to the store for a loaf of bread," he said last week. "The best description of our program is 'concerned citizens fulfilling their responsibilities to insure a safe city in which to live'. Block Parents are concerned citizens who make themselves available to assist children in their neighborhood by offering their homes as harbors of safety and who report suspicious or criminal activities to police."

Block Parents are identified by a red and white sign — with the word BLOCK — in the window. When children see this sign, they know they can go to that home for help, regardless of how trivial or big the problem is, it was pointed out by Mrs. Vic Kuzek, chairman of the



CHAIRMAN BUCHANAN
Spreading the word.

Kenilworth Community Block Parents. "Sometimes people feel they are being nosy if they report seeing suspicious people or a car parked all day," Mrs. Kuzek said. "The Block Parent program gives people confidence that they are not being nosy but taking the proper steps."

"It is a lot of people involved in helping to protect our children and provides one means to eliminate apathy in a metropolitan area," Const. Austin continued. "The most important aspect of a child reporting a suspicious person or happening to a block parent is that time is saved in notifying the police. This way, the police have a better chance of getting a description or license number of a car and apprehending the suspect. Time is lost if a child has to go all the way home to make this report."

Const. Austin recalled "the victimizing of six or seven girls en route home from school last year by a man posing as a detective. He indecently assaulted them in an alley. The girls waited until they got home to report it, and their mothers phoned the police. Time would have been saved if they had gone to a block parent." Mrs. Kuzek said, "There were three block parent homes nearby, but the program was new and the girls didn't think about stopping."

Problems aren't always that serious. Mrs. Kuzek mentioned three little grade one girls who were being bullied by older boys throwing snowballs at them. She stopped that and the little girls were happy. "Every problem a child has is important to him or her," she said. Mrs. Kuzek has three members on her committee in Kenilworth, which has a separate and public elementary school and a junior high school.

Const. Austin continued, "We face another kind of problem that is a matter of education. On the one hand, we have been educating our children not to go to strangers, and now we are telling them

to do just that in the Block Parents program.

The program was instigated by the police department a little over a year ago. The Rotary Club assisted with finances, paying for materials and supplies. The city-wide program is purely voluntary on the part of school districts. So far, 75 out of the 120 communities have signed up and more than 2,000 block parents are involved.

"In no way are we a glorified babysitting service," said Mrs. Kuzek, who got involved when she went to see the film on child molestation at McKernan School and met Const. Austin. She immediately signed on as a block parent. "Sometimes the older children look upon block parents as sort of odd people," she said. "Then they will be talking among themselves about the different mothers and say, 'She's Tommy's mom and isn't a bad sort.' Before long we are accepted as their friends. Women who have served as block parents in Ontario have called to volunteer for the program here. All applicants are required to go through a training session with police so they will know how to determine what an emergency situation is, whom to contact in particular situations, what to look for, how to identify someone and how to properly call the police."

The main requirement in the program is concern for the safety and well-being of children. Adults are carefully screened by the police department and are given large identifiable signs to display in a window facing the street. "Our goal is two or more homes on each block designated as block parent homes," said Mrs. Kuzek. "Children will know that the block parent home is a place they



KUZEK & AUSTIN
Block Parent leaders.

can safely go to for help. Responsible parents, grandparents and single adults are eligible. Hours are before and after school, evenings and on weekends."

TELEVISION

What's past is prologue, producer and writer vow

He wants to be a Mason Williams, not *the* Mason Williams. He wants people to forget, for the time being, that he was the composer of such pieces as "Classical Gas" and is a well-known singer. If people have to remember anything, he prefers it not be that he used to write the *Smothers Brothers Show*. Next week, CITV will start taping what he wants to be known for writing — the *Tommy Banks Show*.

There's another man at CITV who would like people to forget the past for awhile. It isn't that Bob Weinstein has anything horrible there to forget, but he prefers that people not think of him as the producer of the *Huntley-Brinkley News*. He would like Edmontonians to know him as the producer of the *Tommy Banks Show*.

It isn't that they aren't proud of their past accomplishments. "People don't think in forms," explains Mr. Williams. "Take, for example, the Beatles. They opened up new doors in music. But instead of doing something different, the musicians copied their style. We want to enlarge on the concept of a



PRODUCER WEINSTEIN
More spontaneity.



WRITER WILLIAMS

Opening new doors.

variety show without losing the idea. We plan to turn it into an electronic magazine."

In changing the concept of a variety show, they also will be changing the old Tommy Banks image. Mr. Weinstein admits it will have to be dealt with. "We're going to make the *Tommy Banks Show* more spontaneous. There will be less emphasis on talk, and more on making the guests do their own thing. The show will be done 'live,' and people will see the real performance. There will be no miming to tapes and things like that. We'll have comedians, singers, many people who have appeared on the *Johnny Carson Show*," he says.

"To make them different from what people already saw on the *Johnny Carson Show*," explains Mr. Williams, "we'll have to be different. If they (the guests) think it's different, then they will be different. If they have a sense of humor, then the show will have. We don't want this to be just another variety show. We'll do this," he continues, "the same way we did the *Smothers Brothers*. The idea is to know there is an area to work in, but not what the cliches are. Edmonton is a great town. It doesn't know what the cliches are, so it won't race to them."

"The concept goes right down to the way the cameras shoot the show, the lighting, everything. But one other thing makes the show possible," says Mr. Weinstein. "That's the attitude of the people we are working with, like (CITV general manager) Wendell Wilks and Tommy Banks. It's that, more than anything else, which drew me to Edmonton."

Mr. Williams agrees. "They make you want to do things for them, because

their ideas are fresh. It's a rekindling of the spirit."

Mr. Weinstein continues, "Between Wendell's naturalness and Tommy's endless drive to do things right and Mason's easy analytical approach, I'm put in an environment of contrasting personalities and it affects the show like going downhill affects the momentum of an engine. We like to do what we are inspired to do, and I found I was running out of places to be inspired in. It's very dangerous to let that happen. I got lucky when Tommy approached me to do his show. I like Edmonton and I like this show. In the same way that Canadians and Edmontonians don't know how great their country and city are, this show doesn't. It's 'pioneeristic.' The first thing we agreed on was to experiment and not be afraid."

This is another idea Mr. Williams agrees with. "It's like having an atomic bomb on our hands. It's going to fail sometimes and people must be aware of it. We have five one-hour shows a week to do, which is a total of 127 hours of television time. There's a lot of pressure on us to produce high quality entertainment."

"We've got to establish ourselves as a show to watch," breaks in Mr. Weinstein, "and then we can draw from other sources. The show will change and grow through the next 26 weeks, so that people can't turn on their sets and say 'That's the Tommy Banks Show.' They might not recognize it. We're trying to accommodate a parade of concepts, not just entertainers. It involves timing of sequences, lighting, cameras, everything. We're trying not to get into a radio type show. Other shows," says Mr. Weinstein, "are too slick, too pat, too rigid. We won't be."

Dowling himself and 18 Alberta politicians all discovered in list of Cosmo 'victims'

The Alberta government for two months has had before it the controversial report of District Judge Roger P. Kerans into the Cosmopolitan financial scandal. In recent weeks there has been a swelling buzz of gossip that the government is no closer a decision on what to do about the report today than it was the hour it was received. Some observers are chuckling gleefully at quandaries unexpectedly handed two cabinet ministers in the report.

A different kind of a dilemma also arises because of the 18 other present and former members of the House of Commons and Legislature in both Conservative and Social Credit parties who in one way or another were involved in the Cosmopolitan-PAP debacle — mostly as suffering investors. One of them is Dr. Donald J. McCrimmon, M.L.A., Ponoka, who was a director of the discredited PAP.

The two cabinet ministers in the most uncomfortable seats, but for very different reasons, are Robert Wagner Dowling, minister of consumer affairs, and Atty.-Gen. Mervin Leitch. When Mr. Dowling was appointed to the new office last year, the superintendent of insurance office was placed in his department along with the responsibility for answering for it in the Legislature. This was some time before any thought had been given toward yielding to the demand for a judicial inquiry into the Cosmopolitan-PAP fiasco.

In what has turned out to be a cruel trick of fate for Mr. Dowling, the inquiry eventually was granted and the duty now devolves upon him to straighten out the serious departmental blunders disclosed, as well as dissolving the inter-departmental feud between the insurance office and the securities commission as well as internal differences within the insurance office itself. That the feud between the insurance office and the securities commission contributed extensively to the Cosmo-PAP disaster is strongly implied in the report.

The able and talented Mr. Dowling is placed in an unhappy position through no fault of his own in carrying out this task. What has not hitherto been disclosed is the fact that Mr. Dowling is listed on shareholder records as an investor in both Cosmopolitan and PAP. The records indicate that of the \$5 million lost in these companies by shareholders, \$10,000 of it once belong-

ed to Mr. Dowling and much of this \$10,000 was invested in PAP. This would seem to bring the minister of consumer affairs well within the fold of those whom Judge Kerans coldly dismissed in his report as being "victims of their own avarice, ignorance and misplaced trust."

Judge Kerans made it explicitly clear that his reference to misplaced trust applies solely to misplaced trust in the Cosmopolitan-PAP management. However, quite possibly Mr. Dowling privately feels like many other "victims" that any "misplaced trust" in buying the shares was not so much in the company's management but rather a misplaced trust in lavish assurance of investment safety proffered in various ways by the then superintendent of insurance and publicized as "news" by the media.

A fellow victim with the minister of consumer affairs is Michael Lux, Grande Prairie farmer. In 1966, Mr. Lux met Albert Jaasma who promptly sold him a \$100,000 life insurance policy in Cosmopolitan and some shares in the company. Eventually to help build the PAP conglomerate, Mr. Lux says he was maneuvered into selling all his equity in these properties in exchange for PAP shares plus \$10,000 cash, which he never got.

Before entering into this agreement, Mr. Lux says he attended a meeting at the Chateau Lacombe in Edmonton where the pressures on PAP were discussed. John A. MacPhee, then superintendent of insurance, was at the meeting and Mr. Lux claims he queried him about the viability of the companies and what assurance there was that they were in good standing. "Mr. MacPhee advised me they were a good investment, something in which every Albertan should be investing and that they were being built up for Albertans."

Mr. Lux says Mr. MacPhee told him "the companies couldn't go broke because they came under the securities commission and the superintendent of insurance," who was of course himself.

Mr. Lux says that while these assurances were given him in a private conversation, they were also quoted in the *Edmonton Journal*. "I think he (Mr. MacPhee) had used it at another meeting." Mr. Lux admitted that the words might not have been quite the same in the *Journal*, but PAP had been praised in its columns as a "gilt-edged security, a blue chip stock." This was the same PAP which Judge Kerans



HON. ROBERT DOWLING
A cruel trick of fate.

later said "was born, lived and died in a maelstrom of deceit, lies and trickery."

He adds that he believes the superintendent acted in complete good faith at the time. Like Mr. Lux, it is quite possible that Mr. Dowling made his investment in PAP more on the basis of supposed authorities than on the PAP management.

In weighing what action should be taken in respect to the office of insurance as a result of the Kerans inquiry, the Alberta government has some respect for the completely different and tough attitude the British Columbia superintendent of insurance took towards both Cosmopolitan and its management. When the Alberta Securities Commission in 1966 at long last closed down on the unloading of Cosmopolitan stock on the Alberta public at the phony price of \$51.50 a share, its management thought it wise to move its activities to British Columbia. Four months later, Cosmopolitan was informed its license application was refused. Rebuffed in British Columbia, PAP Holdings soon began to pop as a medium for further parting Albertans from their money.

One of the toughest decisions which the provincial cabinet is weighing at the moment is said to be, what to do about William Robert McKinnon, who was the only government official in the report not to get at least one orchid for his work in respect to Cosmopolitan-PAP. In fact, Mr. McKinnon received only one merit mark and that was for his first few months' employment as a civil servant, which he began as chief examiner and auditor in the office of the superin-

tendent of insurance. From then on, Judge Kerans deals harshly with Mr. McKinnon. Seven pages are devoted to ticking off his shortcomings as chief examiner.

Much of the Cosmopolitan stock had been sold on time-payment plans — a small amount down, a promissory note and convenient monthly payments thereafter. At the time Mr. McKinnon entered the civil service, Cosmopolitan shareholders were being induced to exchange their holdings for shares in PAP. The time payments would then go to PAP, and PAP would become liable for them to Cosmopolitan. The flow from PAP to Cosmopolitan was a barely visible trickle, and at first Mr. McKinnon tried to have the flow increased "but not for long." For this act he was awarded his one and only merit mark.

"From some time in 1967 and thereafter, McKinnon's attitude toward Jaasma could only be described as either protective or at least remarkably unsuspicious. It was at this time, McKinnon acknowledges that Jaasma offered and he accepted a financial advantage which McKinnon, but not Jaasma, described as a loan."

(The financial advantage referred to was cash which Mr. Jaasma says he gave him in an unknown amount for his services to the company and a \$30,000 term insurance policy with Cosmopolitan on which Mr. Jaasma paid the premiums until he was ousted from office on Seaboard after the latter had "bought" its life policies including that of Mr. McKinnon. The latter says that Mr. Jaasma promised to lend him \$10,000 but came through with only \$5,000. Mr. McKinnon acknowledges making out an application for the insurance policy and getting a high rating in regard to risk but declares he never took out the policy and did not know Mr. Jaasma was paying the premiums until about three years later when he was billed by Seaboard, at which point the policy lapsed.)

"McKinnon's manner of achieving improvement . . . was to actually go to its office and give advice and managerial assistance, which seems remarkably paternalistic."

Other criticism: McKinnon personally contacted a disgruntled shareholder to encourage him to settle his lawsuit against Cosmopolitan and when meeting his counsel, G.H. Steer, "apparently attempted to intimidate him."

In February, 1969, the actuary appointed by the government warned that companies related to Cosmopolitan, such as PAP, might use Cosmopolitan assets as security for borrowings by the directors for their benefit and therefore that all liquid securities of Cosmopolitan should be taken into custody by the

superintendent. This recommendation was not acted upon. "In December, 1969, \$240,000 of liquid assets of Cosmopolitan went to PAP in a bumper operation involving Allarco Developments, who first borrowed the money from Cosmopolitan and then loaned it to PAP. The penultimate risk here lay with Allarco . . . but the point is that the company did what the actuary feared it would do and McKinnon took no preventative steps as recommended."



AMBROSE HALLOWACK
Was he at Cosmo's bedside?

The "bumper operation" through which \$240,000 of Cosmopolitan assets went to PAP was accomplished in this manner:

Confronted with the foregoing severe censures of Mr. McKinnon, it would seem that neither Mr. Dowling nor the government would have much difficulty in determining upon some disciplinary measure concerning him, but government lawyers are said to have pointed out some complications. In respect to the "bumper operation" which Mr. McKinnon took no steps to prevent as recommended, he has said he knew nothing about it until months after. As its meaning still is a mystery five years later, his defense seems quite plausible. Further, government lawyers are aware he had an embarrassing precedent even if he did know about it. Three months before the "bumper operation," the securities commission had received a costly report, prepared by Stephen Hale, a chartered accountant, after two years' investigation of Cosmopolitan-PAP. In it Mr. Hale recommended serious criminal charges be laid in respect to both companies. Had this recommendation been acted upon, it too would have prevented the scuttling of Cosmopolitan assets which followed as

well as the "bumper operation" itself. That the Cosmo-PAP management had some inkling of what was in the Hale report is intimated by Judge Kerans when he says: "By the end of 1969 Jaasma, Lampard and Van Rhyn must have been fearful that, indeed, the (Securities) Commission might 'get' them."

Perhaps the "bumper operation" itself was prompted by the fear that the securities commission might 'get' them. In December, 1969, Albert Jaasma called upon an old acquaintance, Dr. Charles A. Allard, president of Allarco Developments, which in turn is parent company of Northwest Trust. Would Dr. Allard, through Allarco, lend PAP Holdings \$350,000? Dr. Allard told Mr. Jaasma that Allarco was not in the banking business and didn't have funds for that purpose. Mr. Jaasma left, crestfallen but not in despair. Two days later he called on Dr. Allard again with a scheme whereby Allarco could lend PAP \$350,000 without actually lending anything.

Cosmopolitan would loan Allarco \$250,000 at interest of 9 per cent with a \$10,000 "bonus"; Seaboard would loan Allarco \$100,000 with interest at 9 per cent; Allarco would then loan PAP the \$350,000 at interest of 12 per cent. As security for the loan of the \$350,000 which Allarco had "borrowed" from Cosmopolitan and Seaboard, PAP would pledge with Allarco 50,000 of its shares in Cosmopolitan which represented almost half of the latter's capital stock.

Government lawyers are said to consider that no adequate explanation for this curious transaction has ever been advanced. Dr. Allard declares Mr. Jaasma explained to him at the time that the money was needed in connection with the sale of the Cosmopolitan charter and the equity-based policies after the main Cosmopolitan policies had been transferred to Seaboard, which was then being processed. Dr. Allard says he entered the agreement on behalf of Allarco primarily because he was given an undertaking that Northwest Trust would manage the heavy Seaboard investment portfolio when the amalgamation took place, added to which was the favorable spread of three per cent in the interest rates and the \$10,000 bonus.

Harry Seed, president of Seaboard, says when Mr. Jaasma asked that company to loan Allarco \$100,000 he had also assured him that Seaboard as a result would get some valuable group insurance plans which Allarco had in its possession. The Seaboard directors approved the loan, but not unanimously, as a good will gesture, Mr. Seed says.

"On Oct. 6, Jaasma visited with McKinnon and discussed with him the

possibility, according to McKinnon, of a loan by Cosmopolitan to Canamera, which McKinnon says he discouraged. (Canamera was the B.C. company which Jaasma had incorporated.) By this time the major insurance business of Cosmopolitan had been sold and delivered and there were discussions about the sale of the charter. Only the equity-linked policies remained in the company. There was no need for Cosmopolitan to borrow money, except to assist Canamera.

"On Oct. 21, McKinnon met with G. Arnell, solicitor of Northwest Trust, and discussed a proposed borrowing by Cosmopolitan from Northwest Trust, which he again says he discouraged. At this point, even if he knew no more than that stated, the most naive person must reasonably have suspected what was up. McKinnon, however, was remarkably unsuspecting. Had he at the time reported any of these facts to the securities commission, it would have found them most useful as they were in the midst of an inquiry into the affairs of Canamera and PAP and, indeed, were in the midst of interrogations to discover what was going on. But McKinnon said nothing."

The report then gives a summary of conclusions respecting the office of insurance. It says the superintendent was influenced largely by McKinnon, who in protesting an ambition to protect the shareholders by allowing the company (Cosmopolitan) to survive, stood by while the company was destroyed.

"The Office of the Superintendent failed, in 1969 and again in 1970 in its clear statutory duty to report Cosmopolitan to the Minister. In my opinion, McKinnon failed from 1968 to discharge the clear direction of his superiors to report 'our findings or suspicions to the proper authorities.'"

After this severe censure, it would seem the government and particularly the minister of consumer affairs would find little difficulty in determining upon some disciplinary measure concerning Mr. McKinnon. But the problem of Mr. McKinnon is not that easy, for a trenchant reason.

The biggest roadblocks facing government lawyers studying the report is said to arise from the fact that Judge Kerans avoids mention of the evidence given by Dr. Allard concerning the participation of government officials superior to Mr. McKinnon in discussions prior to the loan of Oct. 26, 1970, to Cosmopolitan that later proved fatal.

Under the heading — "McKinnon, October, 1970, Judge Kerans says: "On October 6 (1970) Jaasma visited with McKinnon and discussed with him the possibility, according to McKinnon, of a loan by Cosmopolitan to Canamera, which McKinnon says he discouraged." (Canamera Enterprises Limited was the

company which Messrs. Jaasma, Lampard and Van Rhyn had incorporated in British Columbia. It was the vehicle used to denude Cosmopolitan of its assets and whisk them across the mountains.) Judge Kerans continues: "By this time the major insurance business of Cosmopolitan had been sold and delivered and there were discussions about the sale of the charter. Only the equity-linked plans remained in the company. There was no need for Cosmopolitan to borrow money, except to assist Canamera."

Dr. Allard has a different perspective on this phase of the negotiations. He says that on Sept. 16, 1970, (three weeks before the Jaasma-McKinnon meeting referred to by the judge) Northwest Trust loaned Canamera \$150,000. "This was in effect a preliminary to a further loan that was made subsequently for \$450,000. At this time we were aware of the fact that Jaasma was trying to buy control of North West Financial and so we knew the purpose of the loan. We did not advance the \$450,000 initially because we wanted to do a good deal of checking with the government to make sure that the security we proposed to take was available to us, for one thing." Judge Kerans continues: "On October 21, McKinnon met with G. Arnell, solicitor of Northwest Trust, and discussed a proposed borrowing by Cosmopolitan from Northwest Trust, which he again says he discouraged."

"At this point, even if he knew no more than that stated, the most naive person must reasonably have suspected what was up. Mr. McKinnon, however, was remarkably unsuspecting. Had he at the time reported any of these facts to the securities commission, it would have found them most useful as they were in the midst of an inquiry into the affairs of Canamera and PAP and, indeed were in the midst of interrogations to discover what was going on. But Mr. McKinnon said nothing."

In what appears to be in startling contradiction to the allegation that the securities commission was kept in rance by McKinnon of what was up, Dr. Allard says he himself took up the proposed loan to Cosmopolitan with the securities commission at a date which would be well before Mr. McKinnon's conference with Mr. Arnell of Northwest Trust on Oct. 21.

Earlier, Judge Kerans had criticized Mr. McKinnon for failing to take custody of the 103,000 shares of Seaboard owned by Cosmopolitan which were subsequently pledged to Northwest Trust and lost. Here again government lawyers are stumped. The primary security which Northwest Trust received in writing from the government, before making the \$450,000 loan to



DR. CHARLES ALLARD

Allarco was not in that business.

Cosmopolitan, according to Dr. Allard, was a first claim on the \$500,000 deposit in government bonds and like debentures which had been posted with the provincial treasurer since before Cosmopolitan was licensed, and that it was not the Seaboard shares which were pledged to Northwest Trust.

The report at some length quoted the Insurance Act to show that the superintendent of insurance had a statutory duty to report Cosmopolitan to the minister and failed to do so, but in the findings the report virtually absolves the superintendent because "he was influenced largely by McKinnon, who in protesting an ambition to protect the shareholders by allowing the company to survive stood by while it was destroyed."

According to Dr. Allard, John A. MacPhee, superintendent of insurance, and Phil Howard, deputy minister, must also have been standing beside Mr. McKinnon while Cosmopolitan was destroyed. Whether the minister, Ambrose Hollowack, was also at Cosmopolitan's bedside at this crucial time is not yet known. J.C. Major of Calgary, commission counsel, refused requests to call Mr. Howard and Mr. Hollowack as witnesses. The request had been made on the basis of Dr. Allard's statement that he had had a conference with both Mr. MacPhee and Mr. McKinnon and had talked on the phone with Mr. Howard before making the loan that encompassed Cosmopolitan's destruction. It was felt that Mr. Howard and Mr. Hollowack were vital witnesses in determining whether or not the office of the superintendent had failed in its statutory duty to report Cosmopolitan to the minister.

Dr. Allard's statement follows:

"After lending \$100,000 to Canamera on Sept. 16, 1970, we did a great deal of checking with the government (a) to make sure that the security we proposed to take was available to us (b) to satisfy ourselves that the regulatory people in government were in favor of what Mr. Jaasma was trying to do (c) to satisfy ourselves the security for the \$450,000, namely a deposit that Cosmopolitan had in the government treasury, would be available to us as security.

"I met with Mr. McKinnon on one occasion . . . I met along with Mr. Miles and Mr. Arnell with Mr. MacPhee (superintendent of insurance) and Mr. MacKinnon and some others in the government building. I personally had a telephone conversation with Mr. Howard, the deputy minister. I am not sure whether or not I had a conversation with Mr. (Hon. Ambrose) Hollowack, the minister . . . I also talked with some people in the securities commission of Alberta . . . I talked on the phone with Mr. Irwin, head of the securities commission of British Columbia . . . I remember talking with Mr. (Einar) Gunderson (chairman of the board of North West Financial and bagman and financial advisor to then Premier W.A.C. Bennett of B.C.) . . . We did not want to make that loan unless we felt the Alberta government knew all about the transaction, that is the attempt to acquire North West Financial . . . they were generally in favor of that . . .

"For that reason we obtained an opinion from the attorney-general's department . . . that once all of the insurance in force had passed out of Cosmopolitan that that deposit could then be used by Cosmopolitan as an ordinary company would do it, because they are no longer in the insurance business . . . So we asked that kind of an opinion from the attorney-general's department . . . We asked for certain written acknowledgments . . . If we had not received such a letter, the loan would not have been advanced."

It is being freely whispered in Legislature corridors that it is this contradicted evidence of Dr. Allard disclosing that officials of the securities commission, the attorney-general's department and insurance office were as equally aware as was William Bruce McKinnon of the Cosmopolitan-PAP peril which presented the government and particularly Mr. Dowling with the as yet unsolved problem — What to do about McKinnon?

While Mr. McKinnon is specifically Mr. Dowling's hairshirt, Atty.-Gen. Merv Leitch is confronted with very different but equally perplexing enigmas arising from Judge Kerans' report. Perhaps Mr. Leitch regrets ever acceding to the inquiry in the first place.

BUSINESS PROBLEMS

Help's there, but finding it may overshadow the need

Joe, Frank and Harry are competent welders who move to Fort McMurray because there is said to be a lot of contracting and sub-contracting work in the area. They form JFH Ltd., find even more work than expected and decide now is the time to cash in on their collective skills. Savings and what other money can be tossed together, totaling \$8,000, is spent to put a sign over the door of a storefront office and hire five other men to work with them. JFH then proceeds to sign contracts for work totalling \$20,000 in payables (money owed the company) which is due in 90 days.

After the third week there is no cash-on-hand with which to pay the salaries of the five men hired by JFH. Assuming the money owed them is worth something as collateral, Joe, Frank and Harry trudge down to the local bank — the one advertising it loans money to people with good ideas but also the same bank which recently warned this fledgling firm not to write any more overdrafts on its checking account. Result of the conference with bank manager: no loan because JFH has nothing to loan against — only a rented office, a few tools and little else.

Another bank is tried, but money is tight and no loans are being made to risky enterprises. Another bank turns JFH down for lack of a complete financial statement (something Joe, Frank or Harry hadn't thought of), a credit union will not help, and the federal Industrial Development Bank cannot lend in this type of situation. The Alberta Opportunity Company people are sympathetic and have agreed to start the red tape moving to get some assistance, but it is too late. The welders have decided to quit from sheer frustration, because JFH Ltd. has found the system stacked against its small, labor-intensive business. A management consulting firm was hired to help with difficulties, but the consultants found the situation as frustrating as the welders had.

So, in this fictional example drawn from the experiences of Fred Rogers and Dennis Duggan, president and vice president, respectively, of Rogers & Associates Management Consultants Ltd., the province of Alberta has lost another small business. Mr. Rogers was quick to point out last week that this kind of practice seems quite contrary to the government's avowed policy of encouraging smaller businesses to prosper. He said that, in fact, "the big companies survive and kill small companies which have a reputation for being unreliable . . . but a lot of the unreliability stems from the large companies'



CONSULTANT ROGERS
Unsnarls red tape.

slow-paying practices." Mr. Duggan raised further accusations against the banks in this province and their lending policies. "The bankers often are no help to the small businessman, following Toronto policies which don't seem to apply to our growing, full-employment economy here. The banks seem to lend only to those who don't need it, rather than lend to these welders who can't talk financial jargon."

The red tape, Mr. Rogers says, is found with government agencies like the AOC or federal consulting firms like CASE (Counselling Assistance to Small Enterprises), and can mean a critical time delay which "can make or break a beginning business." Even with this fault-finding, both Mr. Rogers and Mr. Duggan admitted that some of the blame for small business failures has to lie with the businesses themselves. "Many businesses are started by people who have no idea how to run a business, or, repeatedly, we get clients who didn't realize they needed help until it's too late. Maybe there should be restrictions on the starting of new businesses to make it harder — at least have some mandatory counseling, a forewarning when someone applies for a business license."

The suggestions and complaints of these young consultants were carried to banks and government agencies for comment and reaction, most of which minimized the rough edges of the financial world that small businesses seem to run into.

A spokesman for one of Edmonton's charter banks said the general philosophy at the bank is to "lend to people rather than to a business," meaning the problems of undercapitalization (not having any assets against which to get a loan) should be overlooked. The decision, though, is usually done by the individual bank manager, theoretically the man best able to judge the character of the potential borrower. "Small businesses are getting preferential

treatment at our banks," he said, "with lower rates. Still, we do a poor job sometimes in helping that sector out. And if we can't help, we try to direct the businessman to the government agency that may be able to give him aid. We do find that counseling is needed more than money sometimes."

One government agency which does give aid (under certain conditions) to small businesses is the AOC. Its managing director, Ed Clarke, said this sector of the economy, new and small businesses, is a field that is statistically dangerous. It has the highest rate of bankruptcy and "the most problems even not considering money problems." Mr. Clarke said one of the primary problems his company has found with these businesses is that "they fail to explain their problem," leading the AOC to do some counseling on the side, sometimes sending the company back to a commercial bank to obtain funds. As it stands now, the AOC is doing quite a bit, Mr. Clarke said, and is 70 per cent above its budget, so there would seem to be a strong demand for this type of aid.

Aid in the form of counseling can drain a business just getting on its feet, running up around \$1,000 for 30 hours of help. To fill the gap of needed advice and analysis, the CASE organization provides assistance to many businesses although its existence is not widely known and there are restrictions on the amount of hours which can be put in by counselors.

Another group that does counseling is the Research Council of Alberta, headquartered on the University of Alberta campus. John Gregory, head of industrial and engineering services for the council, explained its function in relation to small businesses. "We act as a resource center with the premise that 'we help everybody'. We're here to assist the development of industry, doing research for industry and providing technical information to alleviate production problems." There is no excuse for a company not to know that the council is available to help, Mr. Gregory added, and there is no lack of clients for the 13 staff members in his department. Discussions are held with businessmen beset by problems and if the puzzle is primarily technically oriented, there is a good chance it can be solved.

With all this array of relief around, it may be surprising to find that businesses surviving their first five years are a statistical rarity, numbering less than one in 10. The problems encountered by Mr. Rogers' clients are not unique, but solving them usually involves finding the right people or agency that can meet those needs, though finding those may be a problem in itself.

COSTS

Real problem is shortage of earnings, not housing

According to the Fort McMurray Housing Needs Study Report of Sept. 6, completed under the auspices of the Alberta Housing Corporation, there are currently 279 families in Fort McMurray which want to buy single-family dwellings or mobile home lots. During the coming year, 1,800 more units will be needed; the following year, 670. The print and broadcast media have frequently of late proclaimed the "housing crisis" which has descended upon that booming town 275 miles northeast of Edmonton. These figures might seem to support that notion, but the press was shown another side of the situation last week when the government of Alberta flew a dozen and a half media people and half that number of assorted public servants on a junket to Fort McMurray. There the AHC plans for that community of 12,000 (expected to quadruple over the next two decades) were explained and developments thus far shown as exemplary of what "concepts and directions to the future" can do for a town.

The AHC's master plan for developing the Crown land on the various escarpments surrounding the old town of Fort McMurray involves three areas currently under development and three additional ones in the future. The tour of those three projects, areas 2 (Beacon Hill), 5 (Thickwood Heights) and 6 (Gregoire Mobile Home Park, Industrial Estates), entailed tracking over still-dirt roads, with concrete curbsings, past \$50,000 homes in some places on Beacon Hill and traveling past barren mobile

homes drawn up wagon-spoke style at the Gregoire Mobile Home Park.

The population of the old townsite of Fort McMurray, on the riverbanks, is presently dwelling 50 per cent in single family units, 30 per cent in mobile homes and 20 per cent in apartments. By the end of 1974, the report predicted, there would be 277 single family units available and 238 mobile homes, and that the mobile, modular and prefab homes were plentiful enough to meet the demand, though there are catches.

One catch is cost. Prefab homes, including a lot, reportedly were costing \$26,000 to \$33,000, a modular home around \$40,000, and, as noted, homes in the newer AHC and related developments* were costing \$38,000 to \$57,000 (Beacon Hill subdivision). Another catch is at the bank. The maximum mortgage which the bank will give is \$32,500 at 11½ per cent interest rate over a 25-year term, which leaves a large gap for a down payment on many of the homes. Obviously, not everyone can afford such living. Mobile homes are one alternative, since the average price of one is \$16,500. For that type of accommodation banks are demanding 20 to 25 per cent down and a 10 to 12 year term at 13½ per cent interest. The Treasury Branch offers better interest rates and terms, but limits its loans to \$15,000.

Another problem is that, again according to the report, the minimum yearly income required to rent an

* Although most of the property surrounding Fort McMurray is Crown land Athabasca Realty (a wholly-owned subsidiary of GCOS) owns and is developing some land for its own employees. Similarly, Northward Development Ltd. is working to develop homes for the employees of Syncrude.



AERIAL VIEW OF GREGOIRE MOBILE HOME PARK
Answering part of Fort McMurray's needs.

average apartment is \$9,000, a mobile home \$10,000 and conventional housing \$15,000. What this means is that 20.6 per cent of the future employees of the Area 6 industrial park, 18.6 of the service employees of the city, 11.2 per cent of the government employees of the city and four per cent of the GCOS and Catalytic Industries employees, will not be able to afford to live in the city. That is the real housing shortage which Fort McMurray faces, and why it may continue to see people living in tents in city parks and in old buses on other unused land.

THE NORTH 'Czar' is genial jogger with power over sands

Animal trapper and explorer Peter Pond probably was the first white man to view the area of present-day north-east Alberta where the town of Fort McMurray is today. That small town nestled in the conjunction of the Clearwater and Athabasca Rivers still carries Pond's name on a junior-senior high school, hotel, restaurant and a beauty salon and barber shop. It is entirely possible that R.V. "Vic" Henning, commissioner (some accusingly call him dictator) of the Northeast Alberta Region — who last week visited his main co-workers (some say wards) in Fort McMurray for the first time — and his name may have the same kind of permanence in the town as Pond. White-haired Mr. Henning will certainly have the power, under Bill 55 passed in the spring legislative session, to have a significant impact on the town growing on the edge of the greatly heralded oil sands.

As "Czar of the North," a title he would jokingly take issue with, the 54-year-old retired naval commodore explained what he perceived as his duties. "I'll be working in the interest of the residents of Fort McMurray, explaining provincial government policies to the town board of administrators if necessary, and mainly coordinating the implementation of services such as transportation and education." The docile dictator emphasized, as he has since being appointed in mid-July, that he intended to work positively with the townspeople — "building on things in common" — and could only see priorities as possible areas of disagreement with the board.

The job Mr. Henning was appointed to has other responsibilities, too, he added, such as reporting to the cabinet. He has the position comparable to a deputy minister under David Russell, minister of municipal affairs, with whom he will have the greatest contact. In his first brief to cabinet he will have the opportunity to kind of define his job and



HENNING LISTENS AS RUSSELL TALKS
Keeping an eye on negotiations.

"tell the cabinet how I feel the job should be structured."

Though he is commissioner over several thousand square miles, it is evident that Fort McMurray will occupy most of Mr. Henning's attention. His present living plans have him maintaining residences both there and in Edmonton, where he will be spending much business time as well as maintaining contact with his daughter attending the University of Alberta. He will be overseeing a town which has a population of 12,000 people, with an additional 13,000 expected to move in as the Syncrude Canada Ltd. extraction plant develops a few miles to the north. Projections at present put the 1990 Fort McMurray population at between 45,000 and 60,000. Syncrude will be the second oil sands plant to begin plumbing the reserves of the areas crown-owned land after Great Canadian Oil Sands, and



AERIAL VIEW OF TOWN
A boom is near.

may be followed by others who have applied for permits to try their hand at making synthetic crude out of the sand, water and bitumen which lies beneath some 19,000 square miles of northern Alberta. The others that have applied are Shell Canada Ltd., Petrofina Canada Ltd., and Home Oil Ltd., in addition to interested queries from a Japanese conglomerate and the government-owned company, Petrocan.

Bill 55 gives Vic Henning, who spent part of his first "official" day in Fort McMurray jogging through town, the power through an order-in-council to bypass local elected bodies like the board of administrators to expedite utility, housing or educational needs of the community. Mr. Russell gave an example of the kind of vacuum of inaction in which Mr. Henning might exercise his powers. "The development of a joint high school site was proceeding slowly and Mr. Henning could have brought the two school boards together to decide. In an area where there is such a short construction season, parts of the planning act may have to be condensed to get critical things done."

His first week in town also found Mr. Henning feeling his way around very carefully. He avoided any speculation on what warring factions he might find in the town, or how he might have to use his powers as "super project coordinator." Keeping a watchful eye this spring when negotiations begin between the companies working on oil sands projects and the unions on no-strike, no-lockout contracts will be one major challenge, while dealing with the current clamor for housing is more immediately pressing on the genial man. Whether his tanned face retains the smile exhibited so often his first day in Fort McMurray may be one measure of how the "Czar of the North" is managing his realm.

THEATRE

Jesus just part of gang
for controversial 'Godspell'

He wore bright red shoes with red and white pom poms and red candy-striped pants. This was topped with a white sweat shirt on which a red-sequined Superman 'S' was emblazoned. Wide yellow and black-striped suspenders held the pants of the handsome blonde male firmly in place. A glittering heart was painted on his forehead. A flower was pinned to his lapel. Was this twinkle-eyed harlequin a circus clown? No, it was Jesus Christ come to town in Gazebo Theatre One's rollicking but religious (?) rendition of the controversial Broadway musical *Godspell* which played to young, enthusiastic crowds at the Jubilee Auditorium two days last week.

As acting, most thought it superb. As comedy, it was a joyous romp through slapstick, the absurd and vaudeville. As pure entertainment, bring it back. As an honest attempt to haul the Messiah down from marbled pedestals of stilted Christianity and serve Him up instead on a platter of "panty raiditis" and like dips into playful pubescence, *Godspell* succeeds in inducting Christ as "one of the gang" but forfeits His claim to the sonship of God in the process.

On a stark stage reminiscent of ancient theatre, five men and women, average age 24, open the story of the "good news" in hooded robes, frozen in the adroit likeness of mechanical mannikins. One is Socrates, another Luther, still another Aquinas. They discuss in turn the meaning of life, question God's existence and examine His motives. Soon they are all babbling at once in the confusion of the ages when John the Baptist enters in "drummer boy" suit and announces that all must "Prepare Ye the Way" of the Lord in song. Suddenly the mannikins become real people shouting, dancing, singing as John baptizes them with handfuls of water from a fountain.

Jesus comes in and announces to John that he wants "to get all washed up." John obliges and during the remainder of the two hours and 15 minutes, Jesus (played by Brad Murdoch) talks warm and friendly to a rag-tag assortment of harlots, buffoons and simple minds via the parables of the Gospel of St. Matthew. The other cast members fawn, feign and kibitz along behind, acting out the timeless truths central in "love God with all your being and your neighbor as yourself."

The parables are well-paraphrased and human quirks and excesses well caricatured in bump-and-grind



'GODSPELL' GANG GIVES JESUS A HAND

A rollicking but religious rendition.

"floozy" and rotund hypocrites. The music is snappy ("Alas For You") to moving ("Day By Day"). Outstanding vignettes are warmly funny, yet painfully pointed—Lazarus and the Italian rich man ("Mama mia! That's a good!" smacks the rich man at his sumptuous table), the good, but drunken, Samaritan (who bandages the beaten man in oil and wine) and Dr. Norman Vincent Spiel (live and direct from "spiritually aware" Las Vegas where the huckster-preacher counts his bucks in a tambourine). Good feelings flow when Christ shakes and cuddles a rabbit puppet's hand, does a couple parables charades-style, and hugs his disciples at the Last Supper, his former playmates. Not so comfortable, however, is the sequence when Jesus explains that "if your right eye offend you, pluck it out and cast it from you" in order that hell might be avoided at all cost. He dashes in the direction of the "hussy" with arm outstretched, yet looking at the audience. "If your right part offend you," he says, inadvertently running into her breast, "cut it off and cast it from you," he ends weakly, embarrassment flooding his face. She considers the implications of one-breastedness and replies, "Oh, come on!" Nor is his magically producing a bouquet of flowers from nowhere or changing the color of scarves by sleight-of-hand any reassurance. Are Christ's miracles so ordinary as to suffer reproduction by a cheap magician?

As a non-profit organization, Gazebo One is experiencing the birth pangs of a new beginning as *Godspell* has been its sole production, breaking all records in Santa Barbara for the longest running play (19 weeks) and enthusing audiences across Alberta (opened in Banff, held over in Lethbridge). Immediately they look to extend their tour east across Canada. For the future they hope for a grant from the state of California. Their recent past was not a packed, but at least a well-stocked audience at the Jubilee and at week's end they opened in Calgary. Behind them they left many people wondering if they were not merely surfing to posterity on a wave of popular Christology. It is no secret that today Jesus sells.

Two of the cast endeavored last week to dispel any bandwagon rides they might be accused of taking. After weathering a hectic segment on CJCA's *Open Line* talk show, on which the main topic that few callers could refrain from lapsing into was the booze-bingo vote, they spoke freely at their temporary quarters in the Van Winkle Motel. *Jesus Christ Superstar!* was a rock opera and theirs is a Broadway musical. Where *Superstar!* lost the divinity of Christ and failed to resurrect Him, the Gazebo players seek to exalt Him, not as untouchable, but as a genuine person, resurrecting Him in the end as something more.

"*Godspell* is not the son of *Superstar!*," says Robert C. Emmens,

22, the stout blonde embodiment of a Zero Mostel and Jonathon Winters cross. "It was out before *Superstar*." "My parents are conservative Catholics and my father had tears in his eyes when he first saw it," remembers Michael Owen Driscoll, 20, who plays both John the Baptist and Judas. "People have gotten numb to the Golden Rule, and we seek in this to portray right standards much like in church, except it's a bigger audience."

Mr. Emmens plays his comic role to the hilt with Puck-like impishness. And the comedy is necessary, he says, to remove the whole issue from the sometimes intellectual stuffiness of theological debate. "Christ may look like a clown," agrees Mr. Driscoll, "but he's not a fool. The costumes help people

Backed by family, friends and his name, Ivor Dent enters his toughest fight yet

Ivor Graham Dent, 50, launched his campaign for re-election as mayor of Edmonton last week with three things in his favor. One was his reputation. Though the effect of the Morrow inquiry was to spew mud wide and wildly through the city's politics, surprisingly little of it had landed on the mayor, and his reputation for scrupulous honesty had in the main survived. Another was his friends. A small, effective committee of campaign leaders, representing in their numbers four political parties — the mayor's own NDP, plus Conservatives, Liberals and Social Credit — had gathered around him to raise money and draw forth a Dent vote. The third was his family. His wife, Aileen, was as usual his ablest and toughest campaigner. And all four Dent children, even 10-year-old Peter, were at work.

None on the Dent campaign group doubted, however, that this, his third mayoralty election, was going to be his toughest. What made it difficult was not only the formidable nature of his possible opponents — the tireless and prosperous Ald. Cecil Purves, the unpredictably contorting Ald. David Ward, and the ominous figure of Bill Hawrelak — but also the fact that not until nomination day itself would it be known who was, and who was not, the enemy. Nomination day is Wednesday, Sept. 18. As this was written, former Mayor Hawrelak's intention had not been declared. The CBC announced he was calling a press conference for Monday of this week. Commented the ex-mayor: "If I call a press conference, it will be Monday. But I haven't said yet that I would call one."

Behind the scenes, the Hawrelak ambivalence achieved what was probably its intended effect. He had people all over the city talking about him. Some said they had been definitely assured he would not run. These, according to one story, included Ivor Dent himself. In a telephone conversation Mr. Hawrelak was said to have given Mr. Dent an absolute commitment he would not run. Others had been assured, equally definitely, that Mr. Hawrelak would run. These included Conservative member of Parliament Bill Skoreyko, the first to disclose semi-publicly — i.e., at a Conservative party reception — the possibility of an attempted Hawrelak comeback. He will wait, Mr. Skoreyko predicted, until the very last minute, and then announce that he's in.

His decision, of course, mattered

crucially to the Dent campaigners. So did another factor. That was the recurrent rumour that David Ward would withdraw at the last minute and run instead for alderman. Some observers said the alderman had launched his "Dollars-for-Dave" drive for \$1 campaign contributions in order to test the strength of his support. In this way, Ald. Ward could ride free on the tail of the Hawrelak strategy. A Hawrelak announcement that he would run could be the pretext for a Ward announcement that he would not. Thus the alderman would have cashed in on



DRISCOLL & EMMENS
Blushing intimacy.

look beyond outward appearance. We could probably do the whole thing in lousy old robes and give people a thrill, but these costumes dissolve stereotyped dogmatism." It is those very set notions that cause people to shout "blasphemy" at musicals of this type. "We're dragging people in who have never been in church before and church people who have never been to a play before."

The distance and aloofness of a *Superstar*! or the blushing intimacy of a *Godspell*? It is said that the latter has wide appeal to the non-religious as well, even atheists. The danger in such universal sects-appeal, however, is the result of not being able to tell the players without a program. Regrettably in the delightful zestiness of *Godspell*, the play becomes the thing where Jesus should be.



MAYOR DENT OF EDMONTON
In a crisis year, three advantages.

the publicity accorded a mayoralty candidate without having to face the consequences of a mayoralty defeat.

All this could easily bewilder the Dent campaigners. A Dent vs. Hawrelak showdown would be a very different proposition than a Dent vs. Purves showdown. If anything, they appeared to prefer the former. They believe that in a straight fight, Ivor Dent would defeat Bill Hawrelak simply by forcing a review of all the charges of mis-government over which the former mayor was ousted. A Dent vs. Purves collision would be a vastly different matter. The west end vote, sometimes referred to as "the business vote" or the "respectable vote" or "the responsible vote" — no description of which is either accurate or just — might swing behind businessman Cecil Purves and oppose NDPer Ivor Dent. Moreover, in a Dent vs. Purves struggle money might become a prime factor, and

everyone knew that the Purves forces had more of it and could collect more still than the Dent forces. The mayor's people feel that he could raise at a maximum \$35,000. The Purves campaign already looks as though it will considerably exceed this figure.

What then could the Dent forces do? The answer was obvious. They can organize the customary Dent campaign and wait to see what nomination brings. Accordingly they moved into the vacated Fireside store at 106 Street and Jasper Avenue, named retired school principal Leon Wendt as campaign manager, organized a press breakfast in the Edmonton Plaza for the announcement, issued nine reasons why they thought the mayor should be re-elected, listed 51 achievements of the city as a whole during the Dent regime, and then set in motion the steps necessary for the mayor's "people-style" campaigning.

By "people-style" what they mean is submitting the candidate to a grueling schedule of personal encounters with as many voters as possible during the four weeks of the campaign. It is, as one reporter pointed out, "Trumanesque." (Despite an avalanche of big money behind Republican Thomas Dewey's campaign in 1948, and the unanimous prophecies of the polls of a Dewey victory, Democratic President Harry Truman won the election by making whistle stop appearances all over the United States.) It's a technique that would swiftly exhaust any man of normal energy, but Ivor Dent is in no sense handicapped by what could be called "normal" energy. His routine for six years has involved a 14-hour daily schedule. It often leaves him exhausted, driven only by an iron determination to finish what he starts. By sheer physical effort he compensates for an absence of easy rapport with the electorate. "I have," he once told a friend, "no charisma." He added: "But I work very hard."

Who could deny it? No mayor in the city's history has appeared so ready to boost all the good causes. He paddles rafts; he grows his beard; he sports buttons, ties, flowers, hats, anything the public seems to ask, and underneath his chiseled smile he seems to hate it all. But such a reaction, he regards as a weakness in himself, not the causes. So he bravely carries on with whatever the latest gimmick requires. If, that is, he considers the cause good. Since most causes are good, this imposes an onerous burden upon him.

Mr. Hawrelak on the other hand does have charisma. People re-elect him regardless of his past, because they are somehow enchanted by his personality. He can tell the good causers no, and they don't seem to hold it against him. Such is the injustice of politics.



THE FAMILY PITCHES IN

At work on campaign, Peggy, 18, [left], Nicky, 12, [above] and Peter, 10.

Yet Ivor Dent loves politics with the enduring passion of a childhood convert, which, in fact, he is. He was introduced to politics before he was quite able to talk. His father, Charles Dent, a grocery store operator, was a grand old man of Prince Albert city council, and served as an alderman there for 19 years. The Dents were CCFers, of course, but they were that special brand of CCFer that came out of the Saskatchewan depression of the '30s. Charlie Dent's conversion to socialism came late in life. He spent most of his life as a Liberal, one of a thousand trainees of the mighty, magnificent, James G. Gardiner, the premier who held Saskatchewan in the Liberal fold for nearly a quarter century by teaching the "people-style" campaigning to his lieutenants in every prairie town. Charlie Dent was one of his lieutenants in Prince Albert, and Charlie Dent taught everything he knew to his second son, Ivor Graham. The lessons were by no means coincidental. The Dent children were painstakingly schooled in politics, and taught as a matter of rote memory everything from polling division organization to the correct way to say hello to people on the street.* They were also taught certain other absolutes — that a

man should be religious, but not necessarily subscribe himself wholeheartedly to any one religious denomination, and that a man should go into business because only in business can he protect his independence of action. (The per chance inconsistency between this view and the general tenets of democratic socialism bothered Ald. Charlie Dent not in the least.) When Charles Dent eventually quarreled with the Liberal organization in Prince Albert, he moved with ease into the CCF organization and it was in this fold that Ivor grew up. But the Dents were prairie socialists, a breed so foreign to the socialists of the eastern labor movement that the field of labor relations in the city has proved one of the mayor's major problem areas. Last winter's bus strike was one casualty. The near strike of the city's clerical workers was another. He understands the capitalistic mind because he was brought up in a businessman's home. He understands the bureaucratic mind because he was himself a school principal and a member of the

* Only Ivor seems to have made permanent use of the lessons. A brother, Wendell, served one term on the Prince Albert Council and retired, somewhat disgusted, from politics.

university's educational administration department. But the labor union mind seems a mystery to him, as it is to more prairie dwellers than he.

His habit of readily acceding to good causes swiftly led him into the armed forces during the Second World War. He became a bomber aimer on a Lancaster, was transferred overseas, though he flew frequently he saw no action. The reason was a series of misfortunes that dogged his crew. Sickness or injury kept removing one member or another, and each time a man changed the crew had to be retrained. So he spent his entire time overseas in training.

After the war he took a degree in science at the University of Saskatchewan where he met his wife, herself a science student and an active CCF worker on the campus. Together they planned a life that would lead them, they knew, into politics. The mathematics teacher and mother of four who today labors over the poll captain lists in the basement of the Dent committee rooms therefore is getting exactly what she wanted and asked for. Her status as first lady of Edmonton these past six years have left no affectations. She is very much a mother, very much a school teacher, very much Saskatche-

member on the university's education faculty. He served as an alderman for five years before a lucky break in the 1968 mayoralty nominations gave him his chance. Two "business" candidates — Reg Easton and Les Bodie, both former aldermen — ran for mayor. Ivor Dent ran too, with the business vote split. The result: Dent, 34,662; Easton, 27,298; Bodie, 26,848.

Three years later, the nominations broke well again. This time there was no "business" candidate. Ald. Julian Kinisky, a virtual freshman, ran along with Jack Holmes, who was not well-known. The result this time: Dent, 60,948; Holmes, 9,777; Kinisky, 27,270. It was a landslide victory and the business vote went to Dent.

But the last term has not been an easy one. While there have been undoubted triumphs, many of them due to the mayor's own influence, there have also been some disasters. One was the bus strike. Another was the Morrow inquiry. While it has scarcely involved the mayor, it has nevertheless created around the city hall an aura of grey. "They're all crooks down there," people might say. "Look at all these investigations that are going on." Such talk cannot help but injure the mayor's cause, however unjust the conclusion.

its unsavoury aspects. So he loses a major talking point.

Finally another pre election development makes for him more problems. City council has decided that there will be 16 city-sponsored election meetings where the candidates will speak. To undertake such a schedule would destroy his "people-style" campaign. So he will turn many of them down, subjecting himself to the charge that he is evading them. It's a risk he has to take.

Whether Bill Hawrelak runs or not therefore, the campaign will be Ivor Dent's toughest ever. But he has those three advantages — a good reputation, some strong friends in all camps, and the Dent family tradition from Alderman Charlie right down to Charlie's grandson, Peter. But a man could fare worse when he goes into the fight of his life.

INQUIRY

Lengthy witness box stint no happy time for mayor

Last week was not completely Mayor Dent's happiest hour. Monday, he optimistically announced his candidacy for reelection to office (see cover story). The very next day, he took the witness stand to testify at the commission hearing into Edmonton's civic affairs. Within 24 hours he had (a) found it necessary to defend himself against intimations that he was prejudiced against certain land developers, (b) said that he had indirectly been offered a future job by those very developers, (c) hedged that, no, he had not been offered a job "as a bribe," (d) admitted that he may have done the developers an injustice, (e) denied — very indignantly — that his tongue may have been loosened by drinking at a Christmas party at his home and (f) admitted that a "Friend Cabbie" letter seeking campaign support was improper and a mistake.

News media reporters covering the drawnout proceedings at the hearing, had cause to be happier. Mr. Justice W. G. Morrow, presiding over the inquiry, announced Thursday afternoon that he had officially ruled against certain evidence being introduced into the hearing. The reporters had heard gloomy predictions from lawyers that should the evidence be allowed as admissible, the inquiry could well continue into next year. As matters now stand, the fact-finding commission may complete its duties within a few weeks. Mr. Justice Morrow's ruling came after an *in camera* session Tuesday and another Thursday from which the public was barred. Only reporters regularly covering the hearings (and, surprisingly, counsels for various principals) were



STRONG HANDS AT HEADQUARTERS

Veteran campaigner, Aileen Dent, and manager Leon Wendt.

wan, and very attractive. For Ivor Dent, she is a strong right hand.

He has frequently needed it. Four times he ran for alderman before he was elected. Three times he was defeated in provincial and federal campaigns when he shouldered hopeless NDP nominations. All the while in his professional career he rose swiftly through the hierarchy of the educational establishment — teacher, department head, assistant principal and principal in the Edmonton public schools, then a staff

Then again there has been the Cairns inquiry into the Alberta Housing Corporation which has already turned up evidence of vast kickbacks to provincial officials who were dealing, as it happens, with land acquisition for a city project, the Mill Woods development. While the inquiry did not concern the city administration, its effect denies the mayor the opportunity to talk about one of his best-known projects, i.e. Mill Woods. To point to it with pride would mean perhaps implicating himself with

permitted to be present under stipulations of secrecy.

All of this was just a part of the inquiry which was ordered by the attorney-general on request of the Edmonton city council after Ald. Alex Fallow claimed that last Jan. 12 he was offered a \$40,000 "gift" by Raphael Ghermezian. He and his brother Eskander, land developers here, on their part alleged that Ald. Fallow had not only asked for \$40,000 but had sought participation for a "nominal sum" in a Fort McMurray hotel project they were considering. Names of Aldermen Bill McLean and Una Evans have been frequently mentioned during the hearing as well as those of Mayor Dent and Ald. Fallow.

The 19th session of the hearing began with Ald. Bill McLean back on the stand to face further questioning by commission counsel G. R. Forsyth concerning his and his family's relationships with the Ghermezian brothers. The land developers had testified earlier that Doug McLean, 22, had approached them seeking restaurant concessions in their new shopping centre to gain his father's support in rezoning property that was to become the Westgate Centre, but the alderman emphatically denied that he had ever authorized his son to negotiate on such a basis. He said he may have indicated to his son, who had been with his parents on several social occasions with the Ghermezians, that the developers might have jobs available but he had "absolutely not" meant for Doug to seek to use the father's influence.

Ald. McLean also testified that he had become aware, some time after the transaction, that Doug had borrowed \$200 from Raphael Ghermezian, but it was a private matter between the principals. Doug, he said, later gave him \$200 to repay the loan and he had offered the money to Mr. Ghermezian, who refused the offer because he felt it was a personal debt owed by the son. In answer to a question by counsel Forsyth, the alderman replied that he had not given the money back to Doug because "he owed me a lot more than that."

Returning to the stand on the 20th day of the inquiry, Ald. McLean underwent continued questioning that more or less had him repeat or, in some cases, amplify testimony already given by himself and others. He said he had told the Ghermezians that he had land for sale in the general vicinity of the area they were planning for a project, but the developers were not interested. He said they made no particular effort to win his vote on rezoning the site of what was to become the Westgate Shopping Centre, but they expressed surprise at his negative vote in view of

the fact that he had earlier recommended the area for such a purpose. Describing city hall atmosphere at the time, Ald. McLean said there "was much talk about the Ghermezians being backed financially by the shah of Iran" and had access to plenty of capital. Also, some members of the city council had the attitude that "we don't know these people (the Ghermezians)" and it is "not the council's business to prevent people from making money." "No," the alderman replied, "but it is the council's business to make for orderly development of the city."

When a portion of city council minutes was read quoting Ald. McLean as mentioning a "Western Realty monopoly" and not wanting "to reject newcomers" to Edmonton, he agreed the minutes were correct. However, he testified he had had five or six contacts with Walter Badun, a Western Realty official, and that the firm was very thorough and helpful with information. He added that Mr. Badun and George Hughes, chief city commissioner, had worked closely together, a relationship which worried the Ghermezians. He continued that the Ghermezians wanted to bypass the administration and negotiate directly with the council, a tactic Ald. McLean said was "terribly ill-advised . . . as this hearing indicates." He described the developers as "being honest about being dishonest" and they "act like other developers, but are more candid." He said he thought them honest men, but "their business ethics are not that of a composite high school." When Mr. Justice Morrow asked if he were not concerned that in socializing with the Ghermezians "you might be losing your integrity . . . Did you do any soul-searching?" Ald. McLean replied, "No, it didn't bother me."

Other members of the alderman's family followed him on the stand. His wife, Donna, testified in the main about social occasions with the Ghermezians, recalling in particular the dinner at which the land developers "kidded" her husband by offering him \$10,000, \$30,000 or \$50,000 "to run for mayor."

Son denies pressure

Doug McLean, 22, told of numerous contacts with the Ghermezians, stressing repeatedly that he was acting on his own and not as the son of an alderman and had never claimed he could exert any influence on the way his father voted. At one time, he and a cousin, Don Nelson, sought all the restaurant concessions in the new Westgate centre. On another occasion, he said he talked with Raphael Ghermezian about a speedy print project, which failed to materialize after

Mr. Ghermezian telephoned the California distributor. Still again, Doug said he suggested that the Ghermezians open a casino (he had worked for awhile as a casino employee on a fair circuit), but the idea was turned down after learning from the attorney-general of provincial regulations. Also, he suggested that the Ghermezians buy two buildings on Whyte Avenue for business use. All this led W. A. McGillivray, counsel for the Ghermezians to ask drily, "You mean, you were advising the Ghermezians?" "Yes," was the reply.

Mayor Dent then took the stand and was questioned by Mr. Forsyth. He said he first met the Ghermezian brothers in January 1973 in regards to land they owned on 97 Street. However, he explained that he "was in no rush" to see "land speculators who seek rezoning." This led Mr. Justice Morrow to inquire, "How can you know their



ALDERMAN McLEAN
Not son's keeper.

intentions until you hear their story?" The reply was, "I usually know the land and the purposes behind the development." Another question from Mr. Justice Morrow: "Do I detect a prejudice against certain types of development? Do you give them the runaround?" The answer was, "I find out details of the project." Later in his testimony, Mayor Dent said he had three lobbying categories: those supporting social causes, businessmen not seeking rezoning and rezoning applicants. He indicated that he placed the Ghermezians' proposed Westgate project "relatively low on a scale of values to the city." Besides, he was "not favorably disposed toward the Ghermezians because of their impromptu

lobbying in city hall corridors." He complained that at times "it was hard to move from his office to council chambers without having informal meetings with the land developers." Indeed, he sometimes "ran into the Ghermeziens more often than my councilmen."

Early in his testimony, Mayor Dent outlined a conversation he had with Norman Nilsen, an Edmonton contractor, during a luncheon on Oct. 2, 1973, at the Edmonton Club. Mr. Nilsen, he said, asked what he planned to do after leaving office, and he replied that he would go back to teaching. This future for an ex-mayor did not impress Mr. Nilsen, he continued. At that point, he said, Mr. Nilsen hinted that he had a story to tell but was reluctant. On the mayor's insistence, Mr. Nilsen said the Ghermeziens had indicated to him that if Mayor Dent "would go easier on them," they would have a good job for him after he left office. His reaction, he said, was to tell Mr. Nilsen that he was not particularly interested in making money and that he would rather end the conversation. He testified that on his return to city hall he called an immediate meeting of the city's commission board, including George Hughes, Phil Walker, Tom Adams and Doug Burrows, related the incident in general terms and warned the staff to be extremely careful in dealing with the Ghermeziens.

New light on talks

When he returned to the witness stand the next day, however, Mayor Dent presented his conversation with Mr. Nilsen in an entirely different light. He said that in March of this year, after he had been interviewed by city police inspector A. W. R. LeFeuvre, he talked again with Mr. Nilsen, who said he could not recall the gist of their conversation at the Edmonton Club in October. Mayor Dent said Mr. Nilsen was emphatic that he had never been commissioned by the Ghermeziens to make a job offer and was surprised at the mayor's interpretation of their conversation. Later on the stand, he was to say that after consideration he did not believe the Ghermeziens had made a bribe offer. Further, he had a tendency to tie unrelated bits of information together and reach a conclusion.

Mayor Dent said he may also have "overstated circumstances" of the conversation at a holiday party he gave last December for city officials and the news media. He said he could have hinted at a bribe, even mentioning an "offer of a bribe for the second time in my life." Under cross-examination, he admitted that he did not name Mr. Nilsen as the man who informed him of



MAYOR DENT

Two sides to story.

the supposed Ghermezian job offer but had not hesitated to "mention the Ghermeziens." He added that he regretted the incident at his party, but denied indignantly any intimation that his tongue was loosened because of drinking.

The mayor said he had discussed the Nilsen conversation with city solicitor Harry Wilson, who advised him to confer with his lawyer. He said he had also talked about the matter with Tevie Miller, solicitor for Western Realty Ltd., sometime last January. He said he expressed the hope that "now it is all in the past and would go away," but Mr. Miller replied he didn't think "it would go away." The mayor said that during his talk with Mr. Miller he said he may have done both Mr. Nilsen and the Ghermeziens an injustice.

Continuing testimony under cross-examination, Mayor Dent said that he tried to avoid knowledge of contributors to his political campaigns, but "it is impossible not to learn some." He said he even tried to stay away from fund-raising meetings. On being shown a form letter mailed during his 1968 campaign and addressed to "Dear Cabbie," the mayor said "I think it was wrong; it was one of the mistakes—I have made in politics." The letter had asked for donations and work from taxi drivers and pledged support for their demands. "That letter brought home to me that it's improper to solicit in that manner (to make promises)."

When the mayor concluded his

testimony, his attorney, Branny Schepanovich, informed the commission that Mr. Dent had filed a statement on the financial status of himself and his family, including political funds. Should he leave office and not run again, any surplus funds (now held in a trust he cannot touch) will go to a charity designated by the courts.

Advice to the mayor

Norman Nilsen, president of the construction company which bears his name, took the stand and threw new aspects on the conversation he held with Mayor Dent at the Edmonton Club. He said an affiliated firm had had transactions with the Ghermeziens and he had met the brothers, also. He said he asked the mayor "how come the city is so tough and takes so much land from developers?" He said the mayor replied, "If those guys don't stick to promises made the city, we will get them the second time around." It sounded like he "was not in love with the Ghermeziens," Mr. Nilsen related. He continued that he is a friend of Mr. Dent but "thought he had to be told certain facts, things politicians need to hear. To my way of thinking, the mayor had a lousy attitude." He interpreted the conversation in this manner: "Some day you (Mr. Dent) won't be mayor and you will need a job. You may change your attitude about people like the Ghermeziens. When you look for a job, people like the Ghermeziens will take a close look at you." He said he felt he was just offering advice as a friend, explaining that a land consultant had told him the city had been tougher on the Ghermeziens than on any developer he knew of.

Before he stepped from the box, Mr. Nilsen made a somewhat unorthodox statement to the commission: "What started out as a simple luncheon turned out to be very expensive. What am I doing at this hearing, why? I think my legal expenses should be borne like the others (obviously a reference to the city picking up the tab for legal expenses of the mayor and aldermen, if no charges are ultimately filed). I pay more in city taxes than the salaries of the mayor and all the aldermen." Mr. Justice Morrow expressed sympathy, but reminded Mr. Nilsen he was doing his duty as a citizen.

AUTOMATION

Yellow stripes still have postal workers seeing red

Automation has been hailed as the inevitable wave of the future, the salvation of mankind from inhuman drudgery and one of the finer products of the evolution of man. Its darker side has not been ignored, either, since Charlie

Chaplin was filmed in the wheels of progress in *Modern Times* in 1932. The clash came to the forefront again last week as the Post Office Department and its employees' unions clashed over effects of the institution of automation along with the postal code here in Edmonton. The 13 yellow bars which have been appearing on city mail for several months have indicated postal coders at work, training and operating the new machines which come on stream later this month. The Canadian Union of Postal Workers meanwhile has called for a national boycott of the postal code and its automated system, and had two national union members in town last week explaining strategies for that campaign.

Out of the employer-employee fracas, which has been boiling since the CUPW wildcat strike in April, has emerged an organized move by the unions to make their weight felt during the automation move. Whether the boycott of the postal code — by means of stickers and/or rubber stamps where the code would normally be — is having a measure of success remains an unsolved question. According to CUPW national secretary-treasurer Paul Gruslin, there is widespread support (from the Canadian Labor Congress to the Postal-Telephone and Telegraph International organization) for the boycott, which manifests itself by the refusal of many union members and organizations to put the code on letters, letterheads and any mail going out of the home or office. "The rubber stamps replacing the code (reading *Postal Code=Low Pay/Let's Boycott It!*) sold well at the CLC conference in Vancouver and are getting a lot of use. At the post office the sorters are giving first priority to mail with the stickers or stamp on it, and sorting the coded mail last," Mr. Gruslin said. One union member claimed his stickered mail got to Calgary within a day while coded mail took about a week to travel the same distance.

The post office paints an entirely different picture of the boycott, however, one which has the union move negligible in its effect. Jim Woronuk, public affairs manager for the Albert postal district, said last week that "the use of the code is increasing every day, especially among businesses. Code information requests are also increasing all the time, doubling from 3,000 in May 1973 to over 6,000 this past May." The half-million pieces of mail that move through the Edmonton post office each day are not delayed by anyone, he said, because it's a criminal offense. "As to priorities, all the mail that comes in moves through. Much of the mail that is coded is going through machines so it isn't even manually sorted at all."

Nationally, the post office also quietly

offered a sop to CUPW complaints on the wage differential between the new postal coders (beginning at \$3.59 to \$3.80 per hour) and the old postal sorters (in comparable positions earning \$4.13 to \$4.34) — giving machine sorters a 29 to 30-cent an hour raise in late August. The CUPW vice president said at the time that was not enough, noting the 23-cent disparity which still remained between the old and new. Frank Walden, CUPW's national director for the western region, called that raise "a forward step, but only because of the backwards notions of the federal



POSTAL CODERS AT WORK
A crucial boycott.

government. Instead of paying the machine coders more because of increased responsibility of dealing with multi-million dollar machines, the government brings in this new system and pays people less because 'they are doing less work, the machines do it.' It's just the opposite of industry."

Mr. Gruslin had few kind words for the move, either. "The government of Canada introduced this mechanization at the cost of \$90 million but didn't give us the right to negotiate technological changes as industry does. In Belgium, France and England, I have visited post offices where machine sorters are paid more than the manual sorter. It's a reverse step."

While in Edmonton, Mr. Gruslin explained the crucial nature of the boycott to CUPW members. "Our future depends on the success of this national campaign. If we don't get the right to negotiate technological changes and their effects, then no postal code. No postal code means the failure of the post office's automation program." It is

to the national negotiating table, beginning this month, that the 21,000-member CUPW hopes to carry its campaign of boycott as a lever to gain "job security" — the main cry, along with wage increase demands, for the new contract to begin Jan. 1, 1975. It remains to be proven if a boycott in this industry can be as effective as those organized by union men with more tangible targets, like Cesar Chavez' grapes.

TELEPHONES

Use 411 as last resort, or pay the consequences

The three-digit telephone number, 411, is well known as the information source where a phone number can be located, an address tracked down or sundry other knowledge obtained. It has been assumed that directory assistance is just another service provided by the telephone company. Now Edmonton Telephones is letting it be known that the 411 number is an *extra* service, presently free but one which could cost in the future. To educate the public in the proper use of this service, Edmonton Telephones (and its counterparts across Canada and the United States) has put on two advertising campaigns already this year and yet another in the works, according to Bob Corsbie, city utilities public relations officer.

The new campaign will aim at clearing up some of the busy signals which are now encountered on dialing 411, or shortening the wait which can presently have the caller listening for half a minute or more to the steady ringing of his own call. The tie-up of the lines, says Mr. Corsbie, is due to "laziness, not on the operators' part, but the callers'. Most of the people using 411 do not look in the book first . . . businessmen especially." The ad campaign (rumored to have already cost in excess of \$10,000) has been necessary to inform the public that "411 should only be used on an emergency basis; that is, after the caller has checked, and sometimes double-checked, in the book." Mr. Corsbie warns that some other telephone companies have begun charging for 411 calls, and "though this would be a lucrative source of revenue, we don't want to use it unless we have to."

Part of the cause of the number jumble has been Edmonton's phenomenal growth rate. This growth, especially in businesses, "has made it tight in a couple exchanges, but no one has been cut short on service." Mr. Corsbie adds that three new exchanges are going in shortly to keep on top of the situation. And to help them keep on top, Edmonton Telephones urged its customers to ask for less information, or be prepared to pay for the extra service.

ATA predicts strife if demands unmet; cabinet ministers shaken by leader

Rumblings of teacher-school board strife, disastrous educational trends, "badly shaken" cabinet ministers and accusations of a "sensational" press and "ludicrous and irresponsible" statements by school board trustees, charged the air at Barnett House (provincial headquarters of the Alberta Teachers Association) last week as Pat English, the accuser and new ATA president, held her first press conference. The enormous power of the teachers' friend, the ATA, was much in evidence. In 56 short years, the bargaining arm of the province's teaching force has developed a bicep which is the envy of every other provincial teaching force in Canada. To government officials, however, the ATA is the town bully, a nagging worry around every corner.

Furrowed were the brows of manpower and labour minister Dr. Bert Hohol, education minister Lou Hyndman and advanced education minister James L. Foster as they listened to Miss English's grim report on declining emphasis on education and the ATA's intention that it begin to get its due. "What we propose is beyond the wildest dreams of what anyone is now talking about," she told the press shortly after the three ministers had slipped out unobtrusively. "They were shook because we're not talking about a little better, but a lot better!"

Quoting department of education officials as saying that it was the first time that they had seen such a clear-cut

guideline, Miss English stated the sweeping changes as these:

(1) A maximum class size of 20. ("Have you tried talking to 36 people in 36 minutes? No way can you talk to the individual!")

(2) A student guidance counselor ratio of 250 to 1. ("Talk now, not wait in line.")

(3) Provision for time and facilities for teachers to plan, to consult and to prepare teaching strategies. ("Not just a half-hour during the day or between 10 and 12 at night!")

(4) Fullest possible involvement of



MINISTER FOSTER

Not long to ponder.

teachers in the organization of school programs, the design of courses and the creation of learning materials. ("With the kind of school days we have now, this isn't possible!")

(5) A librarian for every school.

(6) Adequate and effective diagnostic and remedial services for all students with learning disabilities. ("The province has done an excellent job here but some disabilities are never identified.")

(7) Evaluative procedures which go beyond the measurement of success in the recall of facts or the reconstruction of statements, and provide continuous, in-depth information on student development. ("Tells what is needed to develop potential, not just that 'you only got 20 per cent on this test, Johnny.'")

(8) Availability of professional help and counsel for teachers who encounter problems or difficulties. ("If you can't



MINISTER HYNDMAN

Faces ultimatum.

cope, let's see how we can rechannel your talents somewhere else. Just because you made it through university doesn't mean you've got it made as a teacher.")

Such demands will be met neither cheaply nor quickly, but Miss English says time is running out. "Individual needs determined by the tremendous stresses of society will require an entirely different approach. Population growth, increasing reliance on technology, finite resources, increasingly complex interpersonal relationships . . . It's staggering!" Under the "Quality of Education" submission presented to the ministers, an even more ominous tone is sounded which warns of the "increasing complexity of the personal and collective decisions required for survival . . ." The cost: a 16 to 18 per cent increase in the School Foundation Program, or an additional outlay of between \$59 and \$67 million based on 1974's projected provincial expenditures of \$372 million for 1974. Per-pupil grants would therefore rise from \$622 to between \$721 and \$734 for elementary school pupils, from \$716 to between \$830 and \$845 for junior high school students and from \$996 to between \$1,155 and \$1,175 for senior high school pupils. The current School Foundation Program Fund comprises 86.53 per cent of total educational outlay, the remaining coming from local school districts. This is a further decrease from the 89.27 per cent of 1973-74 and the 91.50 per cent of 1972-73.

What could prove far more costly to the Lougheed government, however, would be a failure to play ball. Under



MINISTER HOHOL

Shaken by demands.

"collective bargaining," the three ministers read the following, what may be considered to be a not-so-veiled threat: "The amount of increase in the School Foundation Program will be one key factor in the ability of trustees and teachers to conduct realistic bargaining. There must be provision for salary increases in keeping with the economic trends . . ."

The ministers haven't long to ponder their predicament, as they were told: "The present inflation rate of 11 per cent is the cause of extreme concern to both teachers and school boards. While many collective agreements between the association and trustee employers were settled in 1973 for a two-year term, all of the 1974 settlements expire at the end of the year. Thus, virtually every school board and teacher bargaining unit in the province will

\$137 billion for 1974-1975, and increase of \$18 billion over last year. Alberta receives a fixed 36 points of the personal income tax derived from it as a rebate from the federal government. A projected \$900 million a year beyond anticipated revenues from usual sources is expected from new-found oil and gas revenues. Consequently, the distressing downward trend in total provincial income allotted for basic education from 22.23 per cent in 1972-73 and 21.84 per cent in 1973-74 to 19.22 per cent in 1974-75 has the ATA alarmed. Alberta's 420,000 grade school students deserve better, the teachers say, than to see their education play second fiddle to other expenses.

What the students also deserve are competent teachers, thus an even heavier submission on teacher certification was placed before the wary ministers'

tent teachers can continue to teach in Alberta because of loopholes in the regulations."

The Calgary-born, Calgary school system teacher looked heatedly at the reporters. "The Calgary school board hasn't had a single case of incompetency brought to justice in three years. One of two things probably happened in this particular case. Either the teacher walked in and merely told the board he had worked for the Calgary separate board last year and was not rehired but 'here are my qualifications,' or he told them his faults and that he wanted to make a fresh start and they took him up on it," she continued.

"Sorry, everyone," she said to the reporters, clearly unapologetic. "This trustee went to the media who were looking for a sensational headline and got it. Her citing the terrible monster in this case to be the minister of education who in reality had never heard of this teacher is stupid. But the parent reading this who has a kid having trouble in school sees that incompetent teachers are being hired all the time, that teachers are protecting one another, and consequently draws false and harmful conclusions." Discipline cases brought to justice seldom exceed six in any school year, she said.

Where the responsibility of ruling a teacher incompetent now rests with the respective school boards, the ATA wants the say. An ATA competence committee is proposed, with full certification and decertification rights. What would result were this the case is the most powerful provincial teachers' association in Canada. What the government is reluctant to delegate to an organization already rife with powerful pedagogues, the ATA demands on the grounds of teaching quality.

"School boards don't generally fire, they cajole," says Miss English. "They don't tell the failing teacher how to improve. Teachers who need only some help are made to feel incompetent. They don't turn for help, they panic and run and hide. Under our proposed system, a teacher could only be fired by a number of people in agreement. We could even have parent representatives on the committee. If they are found incompetent, the committee would recommend decertification and then counsel the teacher into another field. He might be incompetent in teaching English but not French. Steps would be taken to repair the teacher's difficulties." School boards would no longer hire and fire and teacher troubles would hopefully be nipped in the bud. The public, however, could not help but wonder if the teachers would only band together and form a protection agency.

But parents pricked up their ears with anticipation at the prospect of be-



BARNETT HOUSE ON 142 STREET
Headquarters of Alberta Teachers Association.

open negotiations this fall for 1975. Many of the existing agreements were limited to 6.5 per cent increases in both 1973 and 1974. Considering the rate of inflation in both years and the prospects for 1975, the current 9 per cent increase in per-pupil grants does not offer much hope for the conduct of satisfactory negotiations between teachers and their school boards."

Where the financing is to come from is no mystery to the ATA. Accusing the government of not only failing to keep up with educational trends but of de-emphasizing education expenditure during the last three years, the association paraded both the projected provincial plums of Alberta's gross national product take, and oil and gas revenues. The former is estimated at

eyes. "There has been a public outcry that there are a large number of incompetent teachers at large in Alberta schools," Miss English told the newsment, "but I challenge them to prove a significant amount."

When pressed as to how such a false opinion could have arisen, the teacher had some harsh words for both "silly" trustees and exploitive reporters. "This has been stirred up by irresponsible statements such as those made by Calgary public school trustee Catherine Martini. The separate and public school boards in that city are across the street from each other. She claims a teacher was fired by the separate school board, crossed the street and was hired by the public board a few months later. It is ludicrous for her to state that incompe-

ing allowed say in who should teach their children and in being able to lodge a complaint against a teacher and to have it investigated by the committee. The ministers pricked up their ears both in interest and in nervousness at the gathering offshore squall. The latter yearned for what seemed a faint glimmer of unparalleled parental power while the former were experiencing nightmares of a not-too-distant future when they may be making appointments with an educational godfather, formerly known as the ATA.

TEACHERS

ATA leader views future with concern and candor

In the 56-year history of a predominantly female professional organization, there have been 46 presidents — all male, save four. The fourth is tall and personable Pat M. English, 39, who took command of the Alberta Teachers Association's 26,000 members July 1. In the ensuing two months she has been instrumental in preparing two significant submissions on teacher certification and education finance which she wielded with considerable clout last week in verbally boxing the ears of three ministers in the Lougheed government. The hearts of the heads of the seemingly untouchable departments of education, advanced education, and manpower and labor were visibly shaken as the assertive Miss English related the facts of life as pertaining to



PRESIDENT ENGLISH
Explaining facts of life.

education.

After two hours with the ministers, the cool leader went before TV cameras and reporter grilling in her first press conference of the year. Dressed in blue-checked pantsuit, she deftly fielded questions and articulately delivered straight answers. She figures that "if a person banged his head against a brick

wall long enough, either his head will come off or the bricks will start to crumble." After 20 years in all grade levels, the teacher from Calgary still has her head and some telltale cracks are appearing in the wall.

For years she had maintained "an extremely strong interest" in curriculum improvement while observing many of her colleagues withering with discouragement under impossible workloads, miserly pay and precious few minutes to upgrade. In 1969 she went from the stands onto the field, elected by all teachers in both the separate and public school districts as representative to the ATA's provincial executive council. After two terms, a majority of Alberta teachers voted her into the vice presidency. She was again triumphant this year for the top post. No ATA president has ever served more than two terms and Miss English plans no record setting. The years spent in primary education, social studies and English at the secondary level, special education and most recently as teacher-librarian have taught her well in accomplishing much in a short span of time. Her dark blonde hair with light blonde top shook vigorously with easy laughter as she considered "what a nice woman like her is doing in a place like that."

Not an easy position of power, the ATA presidency has had to struggle with constant foment in teacher ranks since its inception. The first president

'The good old days' really weren't . . .

Alberta's teachers can kick about the chintziness of the Lougheed administration all they like, say the sage survivors of the early days of Alberta education. Their vintage recollections harken back to the infant years of this century when it often took more wile than wisdom to endow a pupil with at least a semblance of education. It was a time when the teachers were quickly separated from the babysitters — if you could cope, you were competent.

What demanded a steel-trap mind, spartan-honed body and nerves as steady as a steeplejack was the primitive physical, economic and administrative climate of a year like 1916. The schools had to hand over nearly every young, able-bodied male teacher to the war effort. As sewers, running water and electricity were big city luxuries, female teachers became fire fighters and janitors in addition to contending with all-grade one-room schools with their infamous pot-bellied stoves. John W. Chalmers writes in his quaint, pro-teacher book *Teachers of the Foothills Province*, that it was "frigid to torrid" in the little rooms, depending "on one's

distance from the stove" and that the walls were dirty from the coal or wood that was being burned.

In a year rampant with radical ideas of prohibition, female suffrage and political reform, abandoned by their male counterparts, women teachers fiercely endured the dubious "advantages" of not being actively involved in the war: no tenure (not even during the school year), dismissal on 30 days notice with or without cause, no retirement benefits or superannuation. Alberta's 3,963 teachers received an average annual salary of \$828.69 (with a sizeable percentage deducted for patriotic support of the war effort in those pre-income tax days). Edmonton public school district's first instructor 31 years earlier had made \$800 for 1885. Only 51,000 pupils enjoyed the luxury of multi-room institutions while 48,000 and their harried teachers crowded into one-room affairs. Some rural school doors stood open only three months of the year. Nine months later, much of the new year was spent reviewing the lessons of the year before.

By 1968, there were only 100

one-room schools left in Alberta, two-thirds of which were in Hutterite colonies and the remainder in forest or frontier towns. Today there are even less and the shiny, spacious buildings which have replaced them resemble the Taj Mahal by comparison. Today's instructor drew an average annual salary of \$9,250 in the Edmonton school district last year (required: four years of university and a degree) while the provincial average for 1972-73 was \$11,522.78. In addition to the usual deductions endured by all the taxed and inflation-weary, the 21,000 full-time active members of the ATA must pay annual members' fees of \$168. The resultant \$3,528,000 plus annual fees of \$24 per each of the 5,000 substitute and part-time active, life, student and associate members provides the ATA with its operating budget. Membership is mandatory.

The squawks and gripes continue to emanate from teachers and administrators alike in the perpetual struggle for educational excellence. Most of the old-timers would agree that the goals are worth the hassle. But teachers must count their blessings, they say. After all, it could be 1916.



PIONEER GIMBY
Elected in 1951.

took office in 1917, but it was not until 1951 that Miss Marian Gimby became the first female leader. That same year the December issue of the *ATA Magazine* advertised a new breakthrough in the classroom radio-phonograph. The new Clarendon boasted both an electric model "to reach three-wall hearing with full acoustic value" and a battery model "for schools without electric power." While electronics was advancing, Miss Gimby was blazing a trail for her sister teachers. Called upon to officiate at the dedication of the then new ATA headquarters on 103 Street, her dry wit of the '50s proved she was not about to take a demure backseat to any man: "On the executive council we debated how we should celebrate this official opening," she said to the assembled guests. "There were several schools of thought. Some of us thought we should unveil something, and cut ribbons, and that somebody should hand over the key to somebody. This was voted down as too dry. Some of us thought we should have champagne, with toasts maybe, and that somebody should break a bottle over somebody. This was voted down as too dangerous and too wasteful and too wet. And there was never any agreement at all as to who should carry whom over the threshold." It was decided that Dr. Milton E. LaZerte, leading Alberta educationist, should open it verbally. That notwithstanding, a key passed hands.

Four years after Miss Gimby's two-term leadership ended, Mrs. Inez K. Castleton's began. Her cheerful influence, too, lasted two years, but it was to be five years before Miss L. Jean Scott would serve one term. Nine years passed before Miss English's administration came into power. Now that she's



CHEERFUL CASTLETON
Next to serve.

there, she shoots from the hip.

"I've never had to be a Ms.," she claims. "Women are more involved now than ever before." Her greatest lament centres on what she considers Alberta's stagnant education system. She sees teachers saddled with increasing workloads without a proportionate increase in money, time and manpower. "We aren't making progress. We talk about quality improvement but actually have upgraded only to keep abreast with the times. But what is staring us in the face 10 years down the road — well, we are doing nothing to prepare students for that overwhelming world of tomorrow!" Her exasperation only increases when she views Britain's White Paper on changes which must be made in education by 1980. "With as poor an economy as they have, they are aiming for a teacher-student ratio of 18½ to 1. Beginning teachers will receive 20 per cent time off for formal training. There will be professional leaves granted for upgrading. A 40 per cent increase in manpower is projected in nine years' time! Now if an economy that depressed can do that, what are we up to? We're a very wealthy economy, yet are stuck with going to the ministers of government and showing them where education in this province is going to end up if something isn't done quickly.

"We weren't being naive when we presented this to the government. I know it will take a long time to implement. But we should take a lesson from the British. They have a declining birthrate. Do they consequently decrease the number of teachers? No! They utilize them and increase education quality with a lower student-teacher ratio."

Keeping cool even when angry has



EX-LEADER SCOTT
Nine-year gap.

stood Miss English in good stead. But she admits to a certain candidness that might alarm her more cautious peers. "If you don't talk straight to people," she says, "you deserve what you get back." Murray Jampolsky, past ATA president of two terms, was an administrator, she says, where she is a classroom teacher. His experienced diplomacy when dealing with other administrators, particularly government officials, has been replaced with her unabashed frankness. Such candor gives some government dealers the jitters, but to the majority of teachers, she is just the whip they need to flog the government, if necessary, into giving education top priority.

RESEARCH

University grant may bring vital medical breakthroughs

Medical scientists have demonstrated the profession's reluctance to discuss possible practical applications of research. But, sometime, somewhere it is conceivable that significant breakthroughs will be made in learning causes and development of treatments for diseases now considered incurable and new lifesaving drugs will be discovered from research in protein structure and formation at the University of Alberta. However, for the next five, and most likely 10, years studies will be devoted to basic medical research that will be financed by the Medical Research Council of Canada. The agreement for the first \$3 million was signed by Dr. Malcolm Brown, MRC president, and Dr. Harry E. Gunning, president of the U of A, at a ceremony last week in University Hall. The grant made history because it is the largest ever made by

the MRC and is the second the university has received in four years. The transplantation immunology group was established in 1970.

Dr. Cyril Kay and Dr. L.B. Smillie, professors in the U of A faculty of medicine's department of biochemistry, will direct the research. The \$3 million will carry the project for the first three years. For the next two years there will be an open-end budget and the state of inflation will determine the amount of money granted. Dr. Brown assured university officials there would be money available for the second five-year term if needed. Doctors present at the press conference generally agreed that 10 years would be necessary to investigate the structure and function of proteins that are fundamental to all life processes.

The research will be divided into two major divisions:

- Finding out how proteins work in the body, looking at proteins as the base unit of muscles, the numbers and kinds and how they interact with each other with calcium (the element responsible for triggering contractions) as today's science doesn't know what goes on to make proteins do the things they do. "Proteins play an essential role in every function upon which the human body depends, as they are the building blocks of every body cell," Dr. Kay explained in layman's language.

- Researchers will undertake an intensive physical and chemical investigation of enzymes, the biological catalysts of all cells and living organisms. "We will study their mechanical action

and evolution of protein at the molecular level," said Dr. Smillie.

A key aspect of both studies will be the "recognition" factor. Somehow, proteins have a method of recognizing the element with which they are to interact. Much study has already been done in this area, some involving models and some involving synthetic elements but much is still unknown.

When asked for possible practical applications and what this research could mean to the man in the street, Dr. Kay explained, "There could be spinoffs in the discovery of causes and new treatments for diseases. Medical discoveries are usually the result of the work of many laboratories and not of only one research team. Many times the applicability of the study was not even known at the time of the basic research." Dr. Kay stressed the importance of discovering what made normal cells act the way they do before going to the abnormal (diseased) cells.

Dr. John Colter, chairman of the biochemistry department, reiterated the importance of basic medical research by emphasizing the need for "really defining molecular combinations of normal cell conditions before going to errors of a diseased state." "Through the study of the molecular construction of normal cells, we raise the real possibility of finding out what goes on in a diseased state," he explained. "A diseased cell is no basis on which to make an assessment."

In a discussion of the possible uses of the synthesizing body proteins, Dr. Smillie said that this could possibly lead

to development of new drugs. As for this being cheaper than natural elements, he said this did not necessarily follow as substances produced richly at the molecular level would be less expensive than the synthesized. On the other hand, it would be "advantageous to synthesize elements that do not occur naturally in biological functions."

Dr. D.F. Cameron, dean of medicine, summed up the hopes of faculty of medicine by saying, "Information gained through this research could possibly have the application of finding the cure for a number of diseases, for any disease involving cellular malfunction."

The project's directors have had distinguished careers. Dr. Kay obtained his bachelor of science degree in honors biochemistry from McGill University, his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Harvard and began his interest in muscle biochemistry while a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of the late Dr. Kenneth Bailey in Cambridge. He joined the university faculty in 1958. Dr. Smillie received a B.Sc. in honors chemistry and biology from McMaster University, and M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in biochemistry from the University of Toronto and has been affiliated with the university since 1955. Other members of the research team are Drs. Robert J. Fletterick, Robert S. Hodges, Michael N.G. James and Brian D. Sykes.

An American, Dr. Fletterick has a B.Sc. in chemistry from Marietta College, Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Cornell and since 1970 he has been a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Tom Streitz at Yale. Dr. Hodges took his undergraduate training in biochemistry at the University of Saskatchewan and his graduate work at the U of A, where he obtained a Ph.D. degree in biochemistry. He has just completed three years of postdoctoral training as an MRC Fellow in the laboratory of Dr. R.B. Merrifield at Rockefeller University.

Dr. James obtained a B.Sc. in honors chemistry and an M.Sc. degree in crystallography from Manitoba. As a Commonwealth Scholar he received a D.Phil. at Oxford. Dr. James was subsidized by the MRC to set up the first crystal structure laboratory devoted primarily to macromolecules in a medical school. In 1972 he was appointed associate professor at Alberta. Dr. Sykes graduated from the U of A with a B.Sc. in honors chemistry and earned his Ph.D. at Stanford in chemistry. He became an assistant professor of chemistry at Harvard and was promoted to associate professor of chemistry in 1974. Dr. Sykes's research has involved principally the application of magnetic resonance methods to the study of biological systems.



DR. KAY WATCHES VICTOR LEDSHAM'S TEST
Examining interaction properties of muscle protein.

Student representatives are thwarted in blocking vote on booze-bingo issue

The school year's second public school board meeting last week dawned at 7:36 p.m. sharp. A sparse agenda and relatively few lapses into rhetoric saw it end at 9 p.m. What occurred in between, however, was meat aplenty for incensed parents, adamant high schoolers and the usual assortment of liberal and conservative, grumpy and blithe, pro and con trustees — with the exception of one.

That lone absentee was R. Vernon Johnson, who two weeks prior had pooh-poohed the importance of the booze/bingo duet's going before the electorate and refused to lend support to options for physical education programs on the basis of a few



TRUSTEE PATERSON
An opposing view.

"excesses" in the system. Consequently, the acid-tongued lawyer missed the vote which sent the long-fought question of liquor and games of chance in public school buildings to the voters in the "iffy" fall election.

No. 1 female foe of licentiousness in the schools, much less tax-supported licentiousness, is aging but agile Edith Rogers. Resignedly she read what she considered the watered-down, tamer version of what she would like the voters to see. The first of the two-part question on the use of public school buildings that the voters will read on their secret ballots asks: "Do you favor allowing public school buildings to be used for adult social functions involving sale and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages, provided that these functions are held outside of regular school hours, yes or no?"

Commenting on the question, Mrs.

Rogers pursed her lips and let it be known that her unassailed version would have read, "Do you favour the use of alcoholic beverages in school buildings?" Period. "The only thing acceptable to the board, however," she said, glaring incriminatingly at trustees Mrs. Lois N. Campbell and Dr. John G. Paterson, who had favored a broader wording, "was this misleading statement. It makes it look like only a few adults going over to the school in the evenings for a little social time with a little wine or one round of drinks." This picture of innocence, she maintains, says nothing of the students who attended some of these functions during the recent trial period.

The largest crowd in the history of the school district jammed the board room last year when the issue first came to light, she reminded, voiding any arguments of it not being of any concern to the voters. "I have heard that if the vote is in favor of allowing this use of the schools, some student unions will go after bars for 18-year-olds right in the high schools. And I don't doubt they'd get it!"

"I agree with Mrs. Rogers' interpretation, but not her stand," said Dr. Paterson, "and I agree it should go to plebiscite."

At this point, chairman James F. Falconer allowed two delegations to present their "yea" or "nay" viewpoints. First to do so was young Evelyn Deys,



TRUSTEE CAMPBELL
A basic decision.



TRUSTEE ROGERS
Veteran prevails.

student body president at Eastglen Composite High School and one of two student representatives to the board, who spoke on behalf of EPIC, the Edmonton Public Inter-school Council (of all student body presidents). Her words lent little comfort to Mrs. Rogers and caused many parents in the audience to wag their heads, wondering if education was beyond the point of no return. "I must admit," Miss Deys said for Mrs. Rogers' benefit, "that students have been asking for bars in the high schools for years. EPIC must speak against the motion. We do not feel that a plebiscite on this matter is warranted. The extensive research project behind this was costly, yet most people did not think it important enough to reply. The money spent is an extravagance as there are more important issues, and the booze and bingo issue will only draw away from them. We do not withdraw our support of booze and bingo in the public schools. . ."

Barbara Skaley, speaking for the Edmonton Area Council of Home and School Associations, promptly rose to refute the student. "The parents polled in the research project (5,778 polled, 1,423 responses) are very interested in this matter, but the questions placed to them were very ambiguous and so difficult to answer adequately that most did not (e.g., "What was the overall effect of the Extended Community Use of Public Schools program upon your community?"). Our organization voted Sept. 4 that in view of growing concern over use of school facilities, this issue be put to plebiscite. Most parents feel very strongly that schools are not the place for this."

The last to speak on the issue was Mrs. Campbell. "I'm not opposed to the

wording in Mrs. Rogers' motion. But I am opposed to this thing going to plebiscite. The board should make the decision, not the public. We have the facts and know the history; they don't. As a trustee for over six years, I have seen numerous instances where we have been stripped of our power and could not make a decision. Now we have the chance. This whole question is one of democracy and government because when things get hot, we throw it back to the public. Don't underestimate the cost to the taxpayer, either. They have already been subjected to enough expense on this." Her lone dissent, however, was to no avail as the vote was taken: Mrs. Rogers, Dr. Paterson, Mr. Falconer and R. Herbert Jamieson voted in favor. Mrs. Rogers, however, was not through. "It was not with my vote that all that nonsense about that



TRUSTEE JAMIESON
Public must choose.

Rogers later broached a subject which drew snickers of both frustration and disgust, yet shed another glimmer of modern trend on the entire issue of school morals. "McNally Composite High School has sent a letter home requiring each student to pay 40 cents to clean up the school's student smoking room, whether they are smokers or not. Are there no laws of decency in that school?"

The trustees also displayed a change of heart after two weeks of soul-searching on compulsory physical education which was brought forcibly to their attention by two irate mothers at last meeting. Mrs. Rogers said she was convinced that all was not well with the program and that students should not be forced to injure their spines in tumbling exercise or "shower in the nude and then go out in the harsh weather with a wet head." She questioned the wisdom of installing candy and pop vending machines in schools, and the lack of nutrition training. The walls "black with cigarette smoke" also drew fire. Sitting on the sidelines and watching physical education activities was, in her mind, a deception. What was the rationale, she wondered, for taking physical education in the first half of Grade 10 to gain the mandatory two credits and then never participating again throughout high school? And what of students who earn their high school diploma sans physical education? She moved that the administration prepare recommendations on any change which it deems to be necessary in the physical education

program, including its compulsory aspect and lack of reference to nutritional health, and submit it to both the department of education and its division of physical education. She also advocated that a notarized letter from a parent be sufficient to excuse a child from the class (sole document now is doctor certification) and options be offered, eliminating a child feeling "like a freak if he can't take tumbling."

Mr. Jamieson admitted that he had made a mistake in reacting so negatively to the mothers' brief. "I didn't have an understanding of their feelings. Some have brought it to my attention since. A certain sensitivity to individual needs has dulled a bit in the P.E. program. In most cases, a parent/teacher/student relationship would solve the problem." Mrs. Campbell felt that some teachers became enamored of the program itself and needed reminding that "kids take precedence over the program." Dr. Paterson was amazed that, for once, he had gotten feedback similar to his friendly rival, Mr. Jamieson. He said that all the trustees had received letters from parents whose children have embarrassing impairments or injuries and ask for a "little more compassion." With that, Mrs. Rogers' motion was unanimously approved. The tenacious veteran of the school board had proven once more that rather than outdated, she could still bat a thousand.



STUDENT DEYS
An extravagance.

research was done," she said heatedly to Mrs. Campbell. "What I want is the vote and the cost will be very little, just another punch on the computer card." Mr. Jamieson added, "When a policy of the school board has been in effect 60 years it is a serious thing to change it and must be taken to the public."

The similar question involving games of chance passed with an identical vote and will read: "Do you favour allowing public school buildings to be used for social functions involving bingo and other games of chance, provided that these functions are held outside of regular school hours, yes or no?" Mrs.



PARENT SKALEY
Not the place.